

Beta Alpha Psi volunteers at thrift shop



Senior Whitney Buckman and junior Maggie Lau look through clothes after their shift volunteering Tuesday at Salvation Army. Beta Alpha Psi volunteered all day helping clean, organize and change out clothes from racks.

Walk aims to educate students

Students participate in SlutWalk to reduce negative rape victim stereotyping

BY KASIE GARCIA
Staff Reporter

Students are going to strut to change the meaning of the word "slut."

The Truman State Amnesty International chapter is hosting a SlutWalk at 12:30 p.m. April 27 on the Truman State Mall to promote women's rights, educate about rape culture and to reduce "slut-shaming" and "victim-blaming," said sophomore Kate Vanderslice, PR Chair for Truman's Amnesty International.

The SlutWalk originally began in Toronto during 2011 after a police report said "women should avoid dressing like sluts in order not to be victimized," according to the SlutWalk Toronto website.

The growth of the protest walk has expanded to cities across the United States such as Chicago, Washington D.C., and now, Kirksville.

Vanderslice said "slut-shaming" is using the word "slut" derogatorily to describe how someone dresses or acts. Vanderslice defined "victim-blaming" as the act of blaming sexual assault victims, using phrases such as "she asked for it."

The idea for hosting the SlutWalk at Truman was proposed at an Amnesty International meeting during the fall 2012 semester, and planning moved quickly after getting approval from the city of Kirksville, Vanderslice said.

The SlutWalk incorporates carrying signs or dressing provocatively as a way to protest slut-shaming and victim-blaming. Those involved will be dressed in their everyday clothes or in a provocative outfit to send a message about slut-shaming, Vanderslice said.

The SlutWalk is meant to empower women and to show victims of sexual assault that people care, said sophomore Natalia Albanese, co-president of Truman's Amnesty International.

"We want victims to know that people care and there is something to make them feel empowered," Albanese said.

Planning this event has required collaboration with Kirksville city planners and Truman State Department of Public Safety.

While the event is meant to create shock, Amnesty International will abide by rules set by Truman and the city of Kirksville when it comes to how people behave, including not consuming alcohol and respecting city and University ordinances, according to the SlutWalk event page.

The SlutWalk already has drawn controversy. There have been negative comments about the event on the Truman State Confessions Facebook page since online promotion for the event began, Vanderslice said.

Albanese and co-president sophomore Akriti Panthi said the social media attention was not expected. Panthi and Albanese said they expected more controversy from the Kirksville community rather than Truman students.

Vanderslice said the negative comments are helping to reinforce the SlutWalk because it shows that the negative thoughts concerning women's rights and slut-shaming are present throughout Truman's campus.

"We know those thoughts are everywhere, it's just very noticeable when our peers are posting them on Facebook," Vanderslice said.

The SlutWalk will be a good way to shed light on slut-shaming, Panthi said. She said women bashing women based on their clothing choices or private lives is unfortunate, and the SlutWalk is a good way to get out of that mindset.

The best way to start social change is to get the conversation started, which is exactly what this event intends to do, Vanderslice said.

Registration for the SlutWalk is free. T-shirts will be available for purchase online and at the event, and the proceeds will go to Victim Support Services.

The SlutWalk will begin at the Truman State Mall and will make a loop around the Aquadome on The Square before ending back at the Truman campus, Vanderslice said.

Panthi said there will be slam-poets and an open-mic where women and possibly victims can share their experiences with slut-shaming and victim-blaming before the walk begins.

A link for registration can be found on the SlutWalk Kirksville Facebook page.

Two students receive grant to write musical

BY ANNA GRACE

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Two Truman State students will spend their summer arranging a song and dance.

Senior Shelley Washington and senior Josh Reinhardt were chosen by the grant's faculty advisors as the recipients of a Truman student research grant for summer 2013. They will collaborate to write and compose a one-act musical lasting 30 to 90 minutes.

Reinhardt said as the writer, the majority of his work has to be done with adaptation, or taking a story from one context and making it into another form. He said this will require figuring out what is inherent in the story and finding the best ways to portray it. He said he and Washington will pick an idea and decide what story to adapt. They will choose a story from the "public domain," or any story that doesn't have a license on it, he said.

Reinhardt said he is looking forward to the experience of writing as a job, as he is pursuing a writing career.

"It sounded like I'm going to spend the first week just doing nothing but eating, sleeping and writing to get the book out," Reinhardt said.

After the book, which is all of the words of the production without the music, is written and revised, Washington said they will both "song spot," or select passages they think should be made into songs. She will write the music and they will collaborate to write lyrics. Washington said she will write for piano and voice, but if she wanted to orchestrate it for a full pit at a later date she would be able to.

Washington said composing is not her major, though she does it as a hobby and has taken lessons.

She said she looks forward to composing more for voice through the project. Both said they would like to see the musical performed at Truman.

"It would be super cool if we could have it performed, maybe at the Student Research Conference," Washington said. "It would be an interesting presentation to go to."

Washington and Reinhardt said they each



Shelley Washington



Josh Reinhardt

have collaborative experience, but were each going to get a new experience out of the summer project.

"Working together with people ... especially other artists was super cool because you got to see a different side of everything because everyone's creative process

is so different," Washington said.

She said with this project, she is looking forward to having the ability to make the musical her and Reinhardt's own.

"Something I'm very interested in is working on something where it's not solely my creation," Reinhardt said. "It's our creation, and I'm very excited to see how that process goes."

Music professor Charles Gran said he applied to mentor the project for the Interdisciplinary Research Community Grant with theatre professor David Goyette. He said having two professors from different departments to mentor two students majoring in different areas is one of the requirements for this grant.

Gran said he and Goyette felt the grant was a good fit to help them do something they wanted — guide students through the process of writing a musical during the summer. Gran and Goyette both had collaborated to produce musicals professionally before, though not together. Gran said they decided what length of musical would be achievable, put together a timeline and discussed what they wanted the students to know from the beginning.

Gran said they had two main goals for the students selected. The first was to give students a chance to complete a project, because it is an ambitious thing to do, he said. The second goal was for the students to experience the process of collaboration, which Gran said is important for the arts. Students who applied were evaluated not only by their talent, but how well they would do in a collaborative environment.

"It's a great kind of skill for students to learn," Gran said. "So often when you're working, even within your major, it's mostly by yourself."

He said students tend to pace projects according to their own abilities, but they need to be able to consider the skills of another person and how that person will work with them. Gran said students working collaboratively can't be too attached to the material they create, because it might not fit with the material of another person. He said to collaborate well people have to communicate well.

"Teams are how everything gets done in the professional world," Gran said.

Blanton-Nason-Brewer hosts student yard sale

Residence Hall gives students an opportunity to sell

BY JUSTIN GUNTERMAN
Staff Reporter

One residence hall is about to do some spring cleaning.

Students can participate in the official Blanton-Nason-Brewer yard sale hosted by the hall council April 28. Freshman Hannah Runez, BNB

hall council vice president, said students will display a variety of different merchandise across the front yard of BNB from 1 to 4 p.m.

Runez said the event is not restricted to residents of BNB, but open to all students who have something to sell. To participate, students are required to complete a form available at the BNB hall desk and pay a fee for the table they use. Students can pay \$5 for a half table space or \$8 for a whole table space, but after paying the

table price, students get to keep all of their profits, Runez said.

Sophomore hall council president Kristen Holwick said she has been planning the event since March with her fellow hall councilors and hall director Adam Demers. She said this is the second annual yard sale, and she has not organized anything like this before.

Holwick said she could not attend the event last year, but she heard it was successful.

Freshman Zachary Sirez, a

BNB student advisor who has been helping with the event, said he would like to see a large turnout this year. He said Holwick deserves a significant crowd considering her hard work and dedication to the event.

Holwick said the council wants to make it clear that students are not restricted to selling something like clothes or baked goods. Sirez said people should treat the event like a typical yard sale and sell whatever

they want, as long as it's legal.

Holwick said she thinks this is a great project to host at the end of the year, especially for students who have acquired a lot of unneeded items throughout the school year.

"We wanted to give people the chance to sell some of their stuff that at the end of the year they don't need anymore," Holwick said. "They can also sell baked goods, homemade crafts or really anything."