

## GENDER | Senate circulates petitions on campus for gender-neutral housing

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and if they were to start the program on a particular floor of a residence hall, eventually there might be a certain stigma attached to it.

Malin also said the program likely would be request-only, meaning anyone is eligible but roommates cannot be randomly assigned, even if they indicate they would like gender-neutral housing. He said the program ideally would be implemented on a limited scale during fall 2013.

Residence Life Director John Gardner said there's no guarantee there will be enough student interest to implement the program. He said the topic had been brought up several times during the past few years.

"There were four panel members including myself, and I think there were four people in the audience, so there didn't appear to be great interest in it," Gardner said.

He said recently there has been a large increase in gender-neutral housing across the state and it is implemented at Northwest Missouri State University, Missouri S&T and Webster University, with the University of Missouri-Columbia considering it as well.

Gardner said the program could be an appealing aspect of Truman State to potential students.

"Certainly there are students that would see this as a more attractive option for their housing choice if they want to live with a brother or sister or cousin or friend," Gardner said.

Junior Sean Doyle said he supports gender-neutral housing, though he expressed some concern about couples rooming together.

"I don't think couples should be allowed to do it, because that would make problems down the road," Doyle said.

Gardner said a gender-neutral housing program would allow romantic couples to room together, despite the possibility of a break-up.

"I don't see breaking up roommates who are involved in romantic relationships any differently than I see breaking up any other roommates," Gardner said. "I think the issues involved there can be similar in a lot of ways, and additionally we may have lesbian or gay roommates on campus who currently live with romantic partners."

Despite hopes from Malin, Gardner said it's unlikely the program will be implemented at all by fall 2013, even on a small scale. He said it's too late into the semester to change the program because housing registration begins this month, but it's a possibility for 2014.



Submitted Photo

Junior Jessica Joseph, left, writes a combat operation order as senior Deon Walker, right, reads the information Jan. 31 during lab in Barnett Hall. Both male and female Cadets work as equals during labs performing infantry tactics, preparing the juniors to attend the Leadership Development and Assessment Course this summer.

## ROTC | National memo allows women to participate in direct combat, has small effect on ROTC

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current platoon leader stationed in Afghanistan, said in an email that her two years of experience in the ROTC program prepared her to enter the force through teaching leadership and field and basic tactical experience.

She said she thinks there is a common misconception that there's a gender gap within the military, because 16 percent of the Army population is female. The idea of a "gender gap" and dealing with differences in income and employment or leadership opportunities exists in the civilian world, but not in the military, she said.

"Everyone is paid based on grade and time in service, no matter your job," Anderson said. "This change in policy will have no effect on what one may perceive as a gender

gap because the gender difference is a number and nothing more."

Anderson said the training she received during her ROTC years came from an infantry standpoint, so any additional training for women hoping to pursue this area of the Army would need to be extra tough physical training.

"All cadets, male and female, are constantly encouraged to improve PT, even when they max out," she said. "Any cadet who stops trying to get faster or stronger, male or female, is doing so of their own personal choice."

Junior Lindsey Owens said she's been involved with ROTC for one year, and while she has never taken an interest in pursuing an infantry position, she thinks it's a great opportunity for women who are capable and

interested. Owens said she doesn't think she personally meets the physical standards required for an infantry position.

The only gender gap Owens said she's noticed is the physical standards required of women are lower than those of men, but she said this policy alteration could change that.

During her time in the Army, Anderson said she didn't think she's ever missed an opportunity because of her gender, as increased responsibility comes with proven performance and competency.

Infantry and armor previously were the only two of the 16 military branches in which women were unable to become officers.

"As far as leadership goes, again, I have missed out on no opportunities because of my gender," she said. "Every soldier has to prove themselves."

## CRIME | Kirksville Police Department releases 2012 crime statistics

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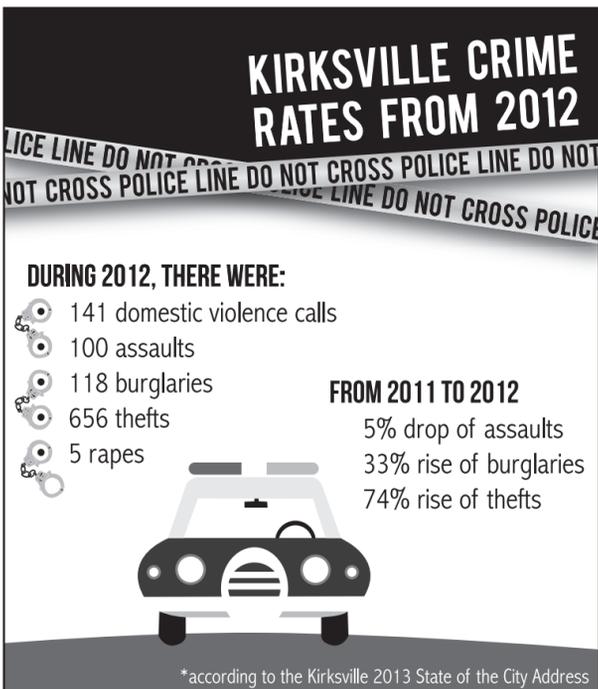
Deputy Chief Tim King said the rise of burglaries happened not because of the change of how reports are filed, but because of many break-ins at student apartment complexes during the beginning of 2012.

The Department tried to curb the burglaries by distributing flyers to student apartments and other targeted residences before Christmas break last year reminding residents to secure their valuables or bring them home, King said.

King said the Department believes the program worked because only six burglaries have been committed during 2013, much fewer than what was reported by this time last year, King said.

He said he thinks data is not skewed by the new system and the statistics might actually be more accurate than statistics from previous years. The rise of thefts could be attributed to many different reasons, most notably the economic recession and the drug trade, King said.

"People are breaking into cars and looking for stereos, iPods, guns and things like that," King said. "They are trading those for drugs or selling them



off to pawn shops for money."

Junior Colleen Glaeser said she thinks more police power isn't a total solution to the problem, and instead thinks

education efforts could reduce crime.

"It wouldn't hurt to inform people about the increasing crime rate," Glaeser said.

### iTech fee would include:

- adding another e-book collection to the library
- discovery tools search service
- possibly increasing library hours
- increasing bandwidth
- updating subscriptions to academic databases such as EBSCOhost

## FEE | Student Senate proposes new student tech fee

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place without student approval.

"The best thing about this is the student's get a say," Malin said. "Students choose if they want it. They can choose whether or not it's beneficial."

Malin said the students will provide input about the fee.

"A student fee is imposed on the students by the students, so if the students vote for it, they really have no reason not to support it," Malin said. "It's not a tuition increase in the Board's eyes because it's not part of the tuition formula. If the students vote for a fee, it's not counted under that."

She said the idea for the iTech fee started a year ago when she met

with Budget Director Dave Rector to see if a student fee would be the best route to make technology upgrades.

Smith said the fee is necessary because budget cuts have forced the University to decrease technology spending.

"Truman has to stay marketable," Smith said. "One of the easy ways to do that is for students to fund the technology they see as necessary. If your university has bad Internet, you're not going to be able to compete with other universities."

Senate is encouraging students to attend their next meeting 6 p.m. Feb. 10 in the Student Union Building Conference Room 3000 to discuss the fee before it is put to a vote.

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