

Students take center stage



Scott Skarvan/Index

Above, sophomore Brendan Wicklein plays guitar to accompany freshman Cole Haugen's accordion performance at the Student Activities Board's Open Mic Night on Tuesday in the Student Union Building. Right, sophomore Shelby Parker plays piano and sings at the event. Students competed in the open mic night to earn various gift cards.



Submitted Photo

Sophomore Jacob Gordon, left, and sophomore Gregory Gargas, right, play Washington University on Nov. 13, 2011 in Ballwin, Mo. The team was unable to compete this year.

Hockey team rebuilds

The Truman State roller hockey team works to increase visibility

BY SARAH MUIR
Staff Reporter

Although they have a successful past, Truman State's roller hockey team lacks the numbers for a competitive team.

Truman State's roller hockey team played at nationals three times during the last five years and been to the playoffs twice throughout the last two years, sophomore defensive player Gregory Gargas said.

Despite the team's past success, they have not been able to compete this year because there was not enough interest in the team, junior goalie Stephen Cullen said. This was due to players who were unable to commit the necessary time due to classwork, he said. He said the team also faces a lack of visibility.

"No one at Truman really knows we exist, even though we have done well in past years," Gargas said.

Truman's roller hockey team is a Division II team in the Great Plains Collegiate Inline Hockey League, sophomore goalie Jacob Gordon said. The team is co-ed and they play 4 on 4 hockey, plus a goalie. Truman's team currently has 10 players, Gordon said, but due to time conflicts and the structure of the game, they are still unable to compete.

Regardless of the shortage, the

team still practices, Cullen said. They go to the Student Recreation Center to skate, drill and scrimmage, he said. The team expects to play next year, but the challenge will be solving the problems they faced this year, Cullen said.

Most of the players already had played before coming to Truman, Cullen said. The team used to have a coach but now they coach themselves, Cullen said. He said it works out well for the team because of their talent.

"The team has a lot of great players who could be playing at a higher level if they wanted to," Cullen said.

Senior defensive player Cary Nave said they contact people they played with during high school to tell them about the team should they choose to come to Truman. They also want to recruit new talent to continue to make their team as competitive as possible, because the level of competition is more intense than what people think, he said.

"This year is about trying to re-group and get ready to play next year," Nave said.

It's important for the team to keep in touch and play for fun to keep their skills sharp for next year, Nave said.

Gargas said the team is trying to get a greater influx of players and increase interest in the game. Increasing interest is hard though, because all the games are played in St. Louis, and only devoted fans drive there, he said. Sometimes



Submitted Photo

Goalie Jacob Gordon protects the goal during a game against Illinois State University Feb. 25 in St. Peters, Mo. The team is seeking new members.

people come to watch practices though, he said.

As far as funding goes, the University pays the league fee, but everything else, including travel costs, is paid for directly by the players, which Gargas said illustrates the team's dedication to play. Gargas, who has been playing hockey since he was six, said it's important that the team continues to exist and play.

"If there's a team, people who come to Truman don't have to be away from the game," Gargas said.

Enactus works with refugees

BY JOHN BROOKS
Assistant Features Editor
index.featureseditor@gmail.com

One Midwest organization is taking steps to help women across the world.

Truman State's Because Every Mother Matters group, working through the organization Enactus, sells headbands made by refugees at football games. These headbands provide funds to refugees from Burma living in Missouri and help women and children in Ethiopia.

BEMM is a non-profit group based out of Columbia, Mo., that serves mothers in Ethiopia. They help raise money to prevent sexual assault on women and girls, and they also help provide income for women to help them become independent, group co-leader Joseph Bossi said.

"They started out giving sterile birthing kits to mothers [in Ethiopia], and they evolved into giving out small business loans, so these mothers can become self-sufficient, and they also help out not just mothers abroad but also mothers in the country," junior Michael Corey-Yares said.

Recently, BEMM opened a house in Ethiopia to provide shelter for girls who would otherwise be sold into prostitution, Corey-Yares said. He said the facility currently has five residents ranging in age 5 to 16.

"If we don't get funded, these girls will go out onto the streets and go back into prostitution, so the stakes are really high," Corey-Yares said.

BEMM also works to teach mothers in America skills to help them provide for themselves, Corey-Yares said. One way they do this is by teaching these mothers to sew headbands, purses, aprons and bags, which Enactus works to place in shops throughout Missouri. They currently are being sold in nine stores throughout Missouri, including stores in Kirksville.

"The refugees are all here because they are part of what is called the Chin clan," Bossi said. "[They are] from a Christian area, and the

army is trying to take control of the area and they tell them they can only practice Buddhism.

Bossi said that the military would burn their villages and crops, and beat up the men and try to get them to join the military, so they fled to Malaysia for about a year before coming to the U.S.

The group of refugees making the headbands live in an apartment complex in Springfield, Mo., Bossi said.

Janice Cooper, who works with the female refugees, teaching them to sew and make the products, said the refugees were persecuted when they lived in Burma.

"They want them to all be Buddhists," Cooper said. "It's really just persecution is what it is. They have no control over any of it."

Cooper said she works to teach the women to sew during the day when their husbands work at a poultry plant and their kids are at school. She has taught the women to make a variety of products, including the headbands they sell, as well as purses and bags.

"I made up patterns that I thought they could do, and then taught them to do them," Cooper said. "They need to sell more now — they're not selling enough."

Cooper said she eventually would like to be able to sell the headbands online, but it will take time for that to occur.

Cooper-Yares said he originally got involved with BEMM last year, and took over as project leader this year.

"I was just looking for a good project that would make a social difference as well as an economic impact and it seemed like a good one," Corey-Yares said. "It's a very nice organization that tries to do some good and tries to help them out."

Those looking to get involved can join Enactus, which meets at 7 p.m. on Tuesday nights in Magruder Hall 1000.



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