Occupy movement comes to Kirksville

Three Truman students who planned to camp out at The Quad packed up their tents Tuesday and slept inside when the overnight forecast called for rain, snow and lightning.

Junior Eric Wynen and Bob McKay camped Monday night at The Quad as part of a five-day Occupy Kirksville event. But on Tuesday night they decided to return to their residence hall rooms, two Tuesday night until the weather changed their plans.

"Because it was going to be sleeting, possibly raining and going below freezing there was too much of a risk of frostbite," Tomusiak said.

He said Occupy Kirksville decided at a meeting two weeks ago to raise awareness for a local Occupy movement. As of Wednesday evening, the group was considering the possibility of a weekend street movement by camping out at The Quad, displaying signs and holding general assembly meetings at 7 p.m. every night in the Picker Memorial Library entrance.

Tomusiak said the group plans to continue camp out for a while just because there are protests all over the country and all over the world, "There's nothing here, and we feel that there should be something here — a showing because there are protests all over the nation."

Tomusiak said the group has only a few members but that hasn't stopped the group from coming together to make a change.

"We're trying to raise money to keep the indefinite protests going by supplying food, supplying blankets and supplying whatever we can," he said.

Natalia Abrams, a national facilitator for Occupy Colleges said of the more than 200 colleges registered with the organization, she does not know about any group as small as this.

Abrams said part of Occupy Colleges’ goal is to contribute to the national movement by connecting colleges throughout the nation.

"It is not competitive," she said. "This is completely horizontal. We’re all about sharing our ideas with each other."

Tomusiak said the group has only had two meetings so far and wants to keep raising money to keep their organization going.

"Foot traffic has decreased, let alone people thinking to go out of their way to help," Tomusiak said.

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Ngomsi said Occupy Kirksville would like to congratulate its 15 new initiates:}

Alexandra Bromer
Amenda Butler
Anna Grzesckowski
Anna Tramelli
Benjamin Weger
Ellen Hunt
Emily Richmeyer
Spencer Ruch

The Theta Kappa chapter of Order of Omega would like to congratulate its 15 new initiates:

Jonathan Grush
Kim McNamee
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