



## the world in brief(s)!

compiled by | **chris drew**

After being asked to remove his hood in a Southern England Jobcentre a UK man identifying as a Jedi has threatened to sue. The man, Chris Jarvis, was asked to remove his hood in order to comply with the building's dress code. Jarvis claims being a Jedi as his religion and wearing a hood as part of that religion, and in spite of an apology from the Jobcentre has promised to sue for discrimination. Over 390,000 UK citizens listed Jedi as their religion in the last census in 2001.

The Guinness World Record holder of the title world's shortest man passed away recently from "heart complications". He Pingping was 21 years old and 2 foot 5 inches tall. Hailing from the Inner Mongolia region of China, Pingping gained fame in 2008 after turning 18 and gaining eligibility for the title.

The internet has made the short list of Nobel Peace Prize nominees after a campaign by the Italian edition of the technology magazine Wired. Editor-in-chief of the magazine Riccardo Luna argued for the internet calling it a weapon of "mass construction" and "global hope".

## Tutoring Underfunded

story by | **anna hoyt**

"Most students who come [to Truman] have never had any academic trouble before," said Director of the Truman Student Success Center, Todd Phillips. Most students come to Truman from high schools where they have been successful academically; it is a surprise to find themselves struggling in a course. Where can a student turn when such problems arise? Try the Success Center, which recently began a peer tutoring program that allows stressed students to be tutored by their fellow Truman-goers.

The program began as a conversation between now Director Todd Phillips, Lou Ann Gilchrist (Dean of Student Affairs), Garry Gordon (Professor of Arts), Maria Di Stefano (Dean of Graduate Studies), and Martin Eisenberg (Associate Provost/Dean of New Student Programs). They realized the need for an academic support system for Truman students, and believed that having such a system would improve retention rates, as well as help the student body. Another idea was the centralized training of tutors; they are now all trained the same way, which lends consistency to the program.

This department is headed by Phillips, hired in fall of 2008 with the specific purpose of creating and nurturing programs that help Truman students achieve academically. "I'm responsible for all the academic support and services offered: tutoring, training tutors, SMaCS, MAC, STEP", he said. The department is growing, too. It now offers tutoring and other services in 80-90 different courses offered at Truman (except for writing, which is handled by another department). In the fall, the tutoring program helped 120 students with nearly 400 tutoring sessions. This semester, as of week 10, the program boasts 200 students, and is close to surpassing 400 sessions and counting. "I think we've been very successful," Phillips said.

The tutoring program aims to provide an "academic support program" for those in need and to encourage the growth of success and learning, states

the website. A student can meet with a tutor one-on-one, online, or in a group setting, as well as attend Supplemental Instruction sessions (larger groups for studying a specific class) and TruSuccess Workshops (workshops to improve learning and study skills). Their main goal is to provide help to anyone who needs it, and to improve learning "one student at a time," said Todd.

With such numerous programs and important goals, it is hard to believe how underfunded the Center is. When asked why this was, Phillips replied, "I feel lucky to even be here", and explained that the lack of funding has two major causes: the fact that it is a new program, and the drastic Federal budget cuts for higher education. Unfortunately there is not much the Center can do but "[be] patient," said Phillips. According to Todd, 75-80% of his tutors are scholarship workers, which helps with the budget issues because the college helps with their pay. Truman's soon-to-be president Troy Paino (to take office May 10, 2010) is "aware of what's happening," states Phillips, and is doing what he can to help including helping find funds for institutional workers in the program. They meet often in order to discuss what is happening in the department and how to make improvements.

A student needing help academically should seek out the services of the Success Center's tutoring programs. The Success center office is located in Kirk Building, room 112; also, check out the Success Center Pickler in (you guessed it) Pickler library 104. Tutoring in Kirk is available, with appointment, Monday - Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and sessions are available by appointment for the Success Center in Pickler.

To contact the Truman Student Success Center, visit their office in the Kirk building (112), or call at (660) 785-5148. Also, email any questions to : [truman-success@truman.edu](mailto:truman-success@truman.edu), or visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/trumansuccess](http://www.facebook.com/trumansuccess). And please, help support the Success Center!

## Libertarians Host Anti-War Speaker

story by | **cole brendel**

At 8:00pm on Wednesday March 17th, Glenn Nielsen, Chair Person of the Missouri Libertarian Party, came to Truman to speak about the Anti-War movement, and Non-Interventionist foreign policy. Towards the end of his presentation, Glenn spoke briefly about the Libertarian Party in general, and took questions from audience members.

I think this event was absolutely necessary, because the Anti-War movement has lost a lot of support from the Democratic Party since Obama has

been in office. Despite their fervent opposition to the war during the Bush years, once one of their own came into power they became silent.



People who are still against the wars in the Middle East need a Party who supports their ideals. That party is the Libertarian Party. The Libertarian Party has always been against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and has not wavered in their opposition unlike the Democrats.

Hopefully in the years to come these wars will come to an end, and maybe our country will listen to the words of our first president George Washington, and leave other countries alone, and worry about fixing ours first.