

# STUDENTOMICS



# Resourceful students cope with tight budgets.

By KAREN WORLEY

1. Homemade hat conserves body heat
2. Dim the lights for instant atmosphere
3. Home movies via cable TV
4. Shopper filled with cents-off coupons
5. Rented paddle from Wilderness Adventures
6. Do-it-yourself vegetables
7. Z Night movie pass in pocket of funky used bowling shirt
8. Poster listing MSA free flicks
9. These boots are made for walkin'
10. Recycled textbooks
11. Just ask for it by name: beer
12. Decked out for exercise

INFLATION socks students, like all of us, where it hurts the most: the pocketbook. Not willing to do without, Mizzou students draw on their own creativity and resourcefulness to find alternatives to the high cost of entertainment, food, shelter, transportation, school supplies and clothing. They're proof that life is good even though money is tight.

## ENTERTAINMENT

STUDENTS have a wealth of opportunities at their reach for a mere pittance of a price.

This semester, students could view MSA free flicks like *Funny Girl*, *Slaughterhouse Five*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace* on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday nights in Campus auditoriums. Tickets for another Campus film series, with films like *Stripes*, *Arthur* and *Only When I Laugh*, on Fridays and Saturdays cost \$1 in advance or \$1.50 at the door. Cary Eades, a junior finance major from Kokomo, Ind., brags about a \$5 date. After buying \$1 movie tickets in advance, he took his date to a late show on Campus, and afterward they only had time for one quick drink before the bar closed.

Local theaters also give students a break. For instance, the three Commonwealth theaters, in cooperation with KFMZ radio, reduce admission to \$1 on Tuesday nights, and for midnight movies on Fridays and Saturdays.

The Speaker Series, featuring such notables as participatory journalist George Plimpton, feminist Gloria Steinem and Jerry Mathers of *Leave It to Beaver*, cost students nothing and, according to Diane Roeder, a senior journalism and Spanish major, are "something you don't want to pass up." MSA concerts on Campus are a good deal, too. Lisa Cecil, a graduate student from St. Louis, says she can hear folks like Todd Rungren, B.B. King and Chuck Mangione for "half the cost of St. Louis and Kansas City concerts," plus there's hardly any mileage involved.

The traditional dinner date still exists, of course, but finances have forced some changes. "I've definitely cut down on dinner dates," Eades says, "or I date girls who don't eat." (The change in his pocket dances when he hears a date say, "I'll have a medium Tab.") He figures a \$30 dinner date tab could buy a week and a half's worth of groceries, or "a lot of hamburger."

Periodically, MSA offers dinner theaters. A recent example: Neil Simon's *Chapter Two*, served with a traditional turkey and dressing dinner, cost \$5.50 a head.

Bill Leightner, a senior biology major from St. Louis, is a fan of daytime dates. If you pick your restaurants carefully, he says, you and your date can have brunch or lunch for under \$10. Another cheap, but filling lunch idea is the Memorial Union cafeteria's 50-cent cup of soup.

On Friday nights, the Roeders like to take in a Happy Hour that features cheap drinks and free hors d'oeuvres, like potato skins, barbecued ribs, fried mushrooms and zucchini, cheese, crackers or popcorn. Diane will have a couple of mixed drinks and Ed a couple of beers. When the tab comes to \$5.50, they figure they've had both drinks and dinner.

Roommates Elissa Shreckengast and Kelly Tally, both freshmen nursing majors from Independence, Mo., are fans of Bonanza's 2-for-1 special. They chow down on two chopped beef steaks, baked potatoes and salad dinners for the price of one, \$3.49.

One way Cecil limits her spending when barhopping is by only taking \$5 along. "That's all I'm going to spend," she says. Another way to while away several hours listening to local talent is to go to the Chez, a coffeehouse at 100 S. Hitt St., where drinks (coffee, tea, ice cream sodas and hot apple cider) cost well below a buck.

Sometimes, instead of going out for dinner, the Roeders will doctor up a frozen pizza, saving \$7 (candlelight and choice of music add atmosphere). Both Cecil and Alma J. Owen, a PhD candidate in family economics, suggest potluck suppers. Since

everybody cooks and everybody cleans up, everybody's happy.

For more active entertainment, the Roeders have enrolled in a jogging class. Physical education credits are no longer required, and the extra hour doesn't jack up their fees. But the seniors figure after they graduate, they're going to have to pay for leisure time activities, like jogging, tennis, handball, racquetball and swimming.

Students increasingly take advantage of Wilderness Adventure's offerings, sponsored by MSA. In a free Common Man's Winter Camping Caucus at the Grindstone Nature Area, for example, workshoppers learn secrets about dressing for warmth and quick-energy foods. Other workshops include bike repair, cross country skiing, cooking and rock climbing. Group backpacking, canoe and kayak trips typically cost \$25 to \$40, including transportation and equipment. Students also can strike out on their own with everything from rented cook kits to tents at dirt cheap prices.

## FOOD

WHEN IT COMES to grocery shopping, students use every conceivable method available to consumers—coupons, loss leaders, damaged cans, generic or private label products—to trim their grocery expenditures. Of course, care packages from home help. Since both Cynthia and Robert Crawford's parents raise beef cattle, they can laugh at the price of T-bones in the meat counter. Steve Brunnett, a veterinary medicine student, and his three roommates split the cost of a side of beef, and figure they saved \$90. Joyce Cavanagh, a graduate student in family and consumer economics, avoids buying packaged mixes, preferring to make biscuits, cakes and cookies from scratch. Cecil saves by eating meatless meals now and then.

Marilyn Hart, a junior English major, volunteers a few hours a week and a \$7.50 membership fee for Columbia Community Grocery so that she can buy food at 5 percent above cost. "The cheese prices are unbelievably low," she says.

Owen eats the fruit of the family garden throughout the school year; in the summertime, she helps do the canning. Other students prefer to weather Mother Nature's moods and do the gardening themselves. The Crawfords' first garden burned

up; last year they reaped salad fixings galore. Even more enjoyable than the food-stuffs, though, is the social aspect, maintains Randy Mullis, a PhD candidate in family and consumer economics. Since garden plots are adjacent in University Terrace, he and his wife visit with their international neighbors while they hoe.

## HOUSING

STUDENTS address another living cost—housing—in a variety of ways. A student pays \$1,515 to live in a residence hall (next year's cost will be higher) while students with families pay \$105 to \$120 a month plus utilities to live in University-owned apartments. More students apply for residence halls than there are spaces available, and family housing is at such a premium that the Roeders applied for it even before they got engaged. Mindy Martin, who resides in Campbell-Harrison, one of two cooperatives that houses 25 female students for \$145 a month, clicks off its advantages: cable TV, fireplace, free parking, basketball court in the back yard, free laundry facilities and free local calls.

Students who live in apartments try to hold their share of the rent to \$100 a month plus utilities. Owen decreases her trailer rent by caring for her landlady's pets on occasion. Brunnett trades a cinderblock dorm room for a fancy FoxFire condominium, purchased by his dad as a tax deduction and future college home for Brunnett's younger sister.

Tom Ranney, a senior forestry, fisheries and wildlife major, saves on utility bills by heating his home with firewood, a byproduct of his tree service business. Columbia's severe thunderstorms last summer were "two years' worth of firewood," he says. Others turn down the heat and turn off the lights.

Like food bills, long-distance telephone charges can be volatile. Besides direct dialing and calling after rates go down, students force consciousness by using three-minute egg timers or watching a clock while they talk. Some wait for their families to call them.

## TRANSPORTATION

HALF OF MIZZOU'S students have auto-

mobiles. Brunnett and his three roommates find it both convenient and cost-saving to carpool, but they all happen to be vet med students with many of the same classes. Periodically, Owen catches a ride with her landlady who works on Campus.

One relatively new service that's growing in popularity is the Campus Shuttle Bus system. Students can park their cars in a lot near the Hearnes Building and then hop a shuttle to Memorial Union in the heart of Campus. The system's efficient—the daytime shuttle makes the circuit every seven minutes. By using the shuttle, students can avoid paying a minimum of \$36 a year to park in a Campus lot. And like Eades says, "That's a lot of beer." Fall 1981 shuttle ridership was up by more than 10,000 compared with the previous year.

Another variation of the same theme is Karen L. Moore's experience. She lives in an apartment complex that offers free shuttle service to Campus. "I don't spend any more on gas than when I lived in a dorm," the graduate student says. Another type of transportation that's tough to beat, price-wise, is the Columbia Area Transit System. While some students complain about CATS' schedule and routes, the price is right. They can purchase weekly passes for \$1. The modern buses accommodate riders in wheelchairs, too.

Students like Andrea Ammons, an English and political science major from Farmington, Mo., substitute personal energy for fossil fuel. Since she doesn't own a car, she walks three miles round-trip to Campus everyday. Biking also is a possibility.

## **S**SCHOOL SUPPLIES

STUDENTS definitely complain about the rising cost of books. "I've already spent \$125 on books this semester and I have more to buy," Leightner says. To reduce the strain, students buy and sell books to each other, eliminating the bookstore middleman. Eades, on occasion, has borrowed a book from a roommate who has decided to keep it. Another way to cut textbook costs is if the book's available at Ellis Library. When all else fails, students can buy used books from Campus bookstores where managers report those sales are on the rise.

At the University Book Store in Brady

Commons, used books account for 60 percent of all book sales, says Jeanne Hagan, textbook manager, and are priced at 75 percent the cost of new books. "Students today are becoming more and more aware of the money crunch," she says.

## **C**LOTHING

WHEN IT comes to clothes, some students are like Moore, who says, "I don't buy one shred of clothing here." Others make out like bandits with Christmas and birthday presents from their families. Playing that game to the hilt are those who go home wearing jeans and needing a haircut. Some students share clothes with siblings; others share with roommates. Says Robin Maddox, a freshman political science major from Independence, Mo., about herself and two roommates, "Among the three of us, we have 30 pairs of jeans, and skads of skirts and sweaters."

Used clothing is another alternative. Matt Patterson, a junior geology major from St. Louis, likes the baggy pants he finds at the Glass Slipper, 1013 E. Walnut St., and figures he spends half what new clothes would cost. The Wardrobe, 222 N. Ninth St., a non-profit organization that provides clothing for referred needy persons, keeps afloat through public sales. And students, says former board president Tillie Berkley, are a growing segment of that public. No wonder. Jeans for a buck; shoes for a quarter; and coats for \$2.25. Janet Knehans, a graduate student, buys a dress at the Salvation Army or a garage sale for peanuts, applies some creativity, and creates an outfit for herself.

Cynthia Crawford is sewing a three-piece suit for her law student husband, Robert. The materials cost \$65. To buy a comparable suit ready-made would've cost \$300 to \$500. Sewing a suit, she says, "could drive some people up the wall, but it's part of my entertainment." □