

Index EDITORIAL

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OUR VIEW

SAM's voice too vital to squelch

Truman students must make the choice next week whether to remain a part of the Student Association of Missouri.

If students vote not to remain a part SAM, they will save \$2 a year and lose a valuable resource in Jefferson City.

SAM is not perfect, and it may become obsolete as time passes and the economy improves. But in an era when state money is tight and higher education is the first item legislators often choose to slash, students need all the support they can get. We appreciate the efforts of SAM members who give of their time to better Truman and other public institutions, but we suggest some changes.

SAM needs to re-focus its labors in the Capitol. It currently hires a lobbyist to support higher education in the Missouri Legislature. Truman already employs two lobbyists to represent our interests, and most other colleges hire their own lobbyists, as well.

Members of SAM should spend a little more face time with lawmakers instead of hiring someone else to do so. We think legislators might be more likely to listen to a sincerely concerned college student than to a professional paid to represent higher education about issues directly regarding student needs.

The internship program of SAM is a good step toward this goal, but it should be expanded. The money SAM currently

spends on lobbyists needs to be reallocated to expand the internship program and provide students with the chance to lobby and influence policy. This not only is an invaluable experience for students, but it also gives higher education's plight a much more compelling and unique voice.

SAM also needs to review its reimbursement system. According to a SAM expense report, some of the organization's officers have received reimbursements for their travel that do not match the purported cost of their trips. The organization must determine a more cost-effective way of meeting and doing business.

Truman opponents of SAM, oddly almost all of whom are in Student Senate's Truman Alliance organization, say they have not seen results from SAM and that the organization is not worth its approximate \$37,000 budget.

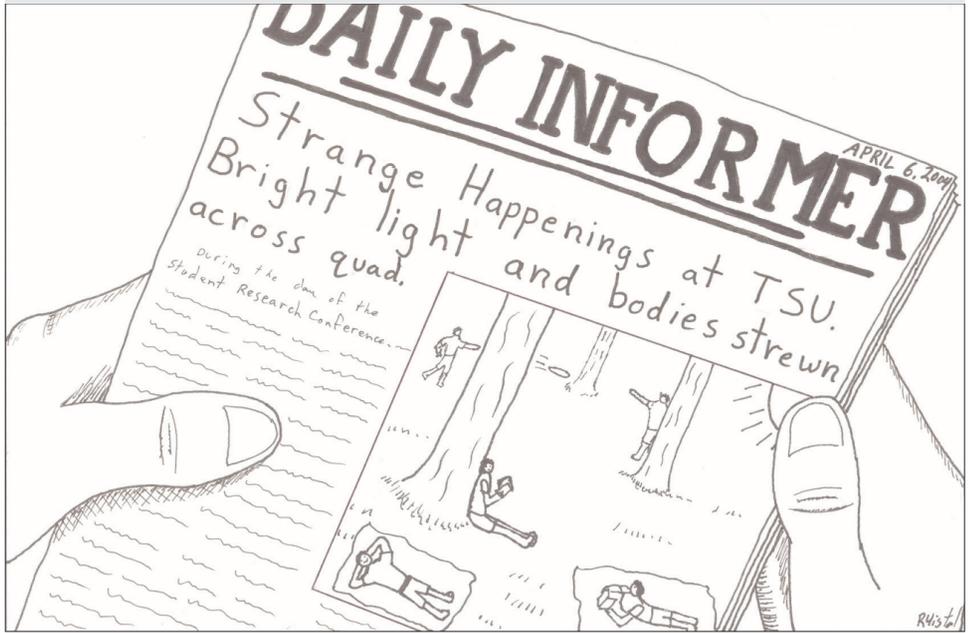
Give it time. During the last legislative session, the higher education budget was debated until the last day possible, June 30, 2003 — the end of the fiscal year. Obviously something was pulling the Legislature both ways. Something or someone made lawmakers think twice about taking money away from higher education.

If SAM played any role in that, it is worth the cost of \$2 per student, per year — still less than a small iced mocha at Jazzman's.

“Something or someone made lawmakers think twice about taking money away from higher education.”

Truville

Ryan Forristal/Cartoonist



Letters to the Editor

Editorial delves into petty issues rather than focusing on positives

I was impressed by your latest editorial in the April 1 issue of the Index about the Student Senate newspaper program until I neared the end.

There it was, what I knew had to be coming. The routine bashing of Senate by whatever means possible: “Regrettably, however, Student Senate is falling into its typical trend of accomplishing one really positive thing each year and spending a lot of the rest of the time passing out candy and arguing over minute details.”

It's a shame that when Senate accomplishes something that is all but unanimously agreed to be a great, positive addition to this campus, the Index can't even write a single piece about it without slipping in one or two jabs at the organization.

And I'm not sure how the Index does its math, but Senate has accomplished much more than newspapers and renters' rights in the last two years. There's a subtle little change to the LSP — you might have noticed it — that lets students drop one mode of their choosing. Not to mention that online extended course descriptions, which will help students find classes that match their learning style, will be a reality once the software is finished being developed.

I don't mind the Index berating my organization when we deserve it. And usually we do. But for a campus newspaper's editorial staff to be so petty, so cynical, that it can't stand to see something entirely positive written about a fellow campus organization — well, that's pretty sad, now isn't it?

Then again, perhaps the Index is just jealous that Senate provided newspapers that students actually take seriously.

Michael Shelton
Junior

Monitor responds, apparently not appalled by Index satire attempt

You win this round, Index. You win this round ...

Matthew Seibert
Sophomore

Pregnancy, single-parenthood changes student's perspectives

I was excited to see the story about Sami Rannels and her son in the April 1 issue of the Index.

You see, I, too, am both a student and a mother. On August 30, 2003, while most Truman students were partying, I was at Northeast Regional Medical Center giving birth to a beautiful little girl named Nia Monét. Although I was looking forward to starting what was to be my last year at Truman, I took last semester off to bond with my little girl. I re-enrolled in 14 hours this semester and balance the tasks of schoolwork with raising a child. Nia's father, a December 2004 graduate of Truman, moved back to Chicago to get a well-paying job to make life easier for us all.

I thought I would be so alone and have no one to help me out on those very busy days. Boy, was I wrong. The support I receive from my friends and various staff members here at Truman is almost overwhelming. There is always someone there whether it is offering to babysit so I can take a much-needed break or simply encouraging me.

There have been students who look at me strangely when they see me on campus with my daughter or when I tell them I have a 7-month-old child. To them, I say applaud me for not giving up on achieving my goals instead of looking down on me. To anyone else who may be going through a similar situation, be encouraged. I must admit being a single parent and full-time student is not easy, but I can't imagine life without my little girl.

Nicol' Arrington
Junior

Men's personal regions deserve more respect than column gives

This letter is written in response to Nitika Sharma's column in the March 25 issue of the Index and in defense of all of us who just can't resist a little testicle tickle. You see, the male scrotum, along with all its sensitive contents, is the ugly duckling of the anatomical world. Forced into exile because its precious contents are too temperature sensitive to thrive inside our muggy 98.6 body and destined to hang out all day between two hairy legs and under an attention-lavished penis, they truly are underappreciated by the fairer sex for the key role they play in the cycle of life.

As often as our “drooping mass of tissue” is held in contempt by a beauty-focused society, the least we as men can do is ensure that once in a while it is held in compassion. Far from being disgusted by a man who scratches his testicles, you should be encouraged that he cares enough to satisfy the itchings of the ugly little fellas that may one day be asked to provide the other half of your offspring's DNA.

Let me ask you ladies this: If you were forced to reside in an area that had a penchant for bad air flow, with a humid climate and confined mobility, wouldn't you tend to be itchy, too? And just imagine if you had no fingers or even arms to combat the problem, wouldn't you be grateful for the heavenly relief of a caring scratch from your landlord? I think so.

Doesn't anyone see the irony in women always wanting men to be more sensitive but then denouncing us for relieving the most sensitive part of our body? To me, Sharma's column was just a big kick in the balls, pun intended.

So please, next time you see a guy taking care of these ever-important wrinkles situated in such an inconvenient place, I hope you see him as a man scratching the proverbial back of those who've scratched his (figuratively speaking), as a man who's investing in his future and possibly yours and maybe, just maybe, offer to lend a helping hand.

Judd Lienhard
Senior

Cartoon critique more offensive, hypocritical than original subject

Matt Hutchinson's letter in the April 1 issue of the Index was dogmatic and fanatical in its criticism of the Monitor's Jesus and Paris Hilton cartoon.

Hutchinson “found this comic to be very sacrilegious ... a horrible, offensive, and disgusting comic.”

As a firm believer in the separation between church and state, I find Hutchinson's letter “horrible and offensive” itself. Hutchinson seems to want The Monitor, a campus periodical distributed solely on public property, to drop its “nothing is sacred” attitude and publish only pro-Catholic features. Forgetting the obvious problems with state-sponsored religion, Hutchinson also forgets the primary mission of The Monitor — to give anyone the opportunity to circulate their beliefs in a public forum, even if those beliefs are decidedly anti-Christian. No, Hutchinson's wanting a “newspaper that claims to respect all opinions” to pick and choose its articles based on what Pope John Paul II would like to read was last week's demonstration of hypocrisy.

Josh Fenton
Sophomore

'BIG' event produces big results for Kirksville beneficiaries

We want to thank the University for the “BIG” event held Saturday, March 27. This was our first year to participate and what a positive successful experience! Four lovely young ladies (Ashley, Cassidy, Kayla and Maria) arrived promptly at 8:30 and worked all morning raking and bagging wet soggy leaves. It was certainly our pleasure meeting these four young ladies, and we want you to know how much we appreciate this community project.

Bob and Leola Daniels

Letters policy

The Index welcomes letters to the editor from the University community. Letters to the editor are due by noon on the Monday before publication and become property of the Index. Submissions are subject to editing, must contain a well-developed theme and cannot exceed 300 words, except at the discretion of the editorial board.

All letters to the editor MUST be typed, double-spaced, signed and include a phone number for verification.

Letters to the editor may also be submitted by e-mail at Indexnewspaper@hotmail.com or on our Web site at www.trumanindex.com. Include the words “letter to the editor” in the subject line of the e-mail. No individual may submit more than one letter a week.

INDEX APRIL 1 RESULTS
as of midnight Tuesday

Web poll

Which reality television should you most like to be on?

- Trading Spaces 42% (11)
- Survivor 19% (5)
- The Apprentice 27% (7)
- American Idol 12% (3)

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: Do you think Truman should continue to participate in SAM?

vote online at www.trumanindex.com

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Editorial policy

The Index is published on Thursdays during the school year by students at Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo., 63501. The production offices are located in the Student Union Building. We can be reached by phone at 660-785-4449. Content of the Index is the responsibility of the Index staff.

The editor in chief consults with the staff and adviser but ultimately is responsible for all decisions. Opinions of Index columnists are not necessarily representative of the opinions of the staff or the newspaper. Our View editorials represent the view of the Index through a majority vote of the Editorial Board, consisting of the editor in chief, managing editor, news editor and opinions editor. The Index reserves the right to edit submitted material because of space limitations, repetitive subject matter, libelous content or any other reason the editor in chief deems appropriate. Submitted material includes advertisements and letters to the editor.

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