

## OUR VIEW

## Gains in battling meth are notable, but work remains

For students living off campus, the likelihood of living next door to someone producing meth has decreased significantly since 2003. Adair County dropped from 60 methamphetamine lab seizures in 2003 to 12 in 2004. So far in 2005, police have seized just six meth labs (see story, Page 1).

This decrease might be attributed in part to the Adair County Meth Coalition's

efforts to increase community awareness about meth and also to the \$100,000 matching grant it received in conjunction with the KTVO Heartland Task Force. The grant has helped pay for overtime for law enforcement to do

saturation patrols – stopping every car that goes in and out of Adair County, according to the Nov. 4, 2004 issue of the Index. Missouri Highway Patrol and Adair County Sheriff's Department officials arrested three people in July as a result of these saturation patrols.

Additionally, Adair County's task force is one of a handful of counties statewide that has officers on patrol 24 hours a day. Adair County Chief Deputy Larry Logston said he thinks this has helped promote community awareness of meth and reduce the number of lab seizures in the past few years.

Efforts to clean up the county have clearly been effective, but there is still work to be done, both locally and nationally.

Last week a Kirksville woman, Joyce Moots, 51, was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute. Previously, more than \$13,000 in narcotics were stolen from Rider

Drug last winter, according to the Feb. 10 issue of the Index. Clearly this indicates that continued efforts are needed.

Missouri has made additional efforts through legislation. The Pseudoephedrine Schedule V Bill, which came into effect in July, requires pharmacies to record each person who purchases pseudoephedrine, a main component of meth. The bill prevents

a person from buying more than nine grams of the drug per month.

This bill, while preventing meth cooks from purchasing enough pseudoephedrine to produce the meth in Kirksville, could drive meth makers to other nearby

states for the necessary ingredients. To combat this issue, Sen. Jim Talent is proposing the federal Combat-Meth Act to Congress that mimics the Missouri law. This would also establish a state-to-state database that would allow police officers to search for frequent pseudoephedrine buyers.

Although this bill is a step in the right direction, there is always the possibility that it would encourage foreign production of meth. According to the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, about half of the meth available in the Midwest currently comes from Mexico and the Pacific.

The state of Missouri, and specifically, Adair County, has made obvious strides in the effort to combat the production and distribution of meth, but simple numerical victories must not detract from the overall enormity of the task at hand. We call on state and local law enforcement to continue the battle against meth, in which the vast majority of citizens are allies.

**[The task force's efforts to clean up the city have clearly been effective, however, there is still work to be done ...]**

## Truville

Perrin Carrell/cartoonist



## Letters to the Editor

### Column ignores propensity of offenders to repeat their crimes

Sex offenders are inclined to repeat their crimes regardless of whether their names are put in a public report [column, Oct. 6 issue of the Index]. Their unusually strong, recurrent sexual urges are not easily treated. Many never even attempt therapy, and incarceration is not enough to deter them from reoffending. In fact, many have been known to openly anticipate their release so that they can commit the same heinous offenses again.

Granted, the way society deals with sex offenders en masse could use some improvement. Perhaps if society can find a way to significantly rehabilitate sex offenders, the former sex offenders could be able to live their lives freely. But until this happens and as long as we are releasing potentially dangerous people, the public should have a right to know. The severity of the offenses should also be disclosed to better inform the public as well as protect the rights of the lesser offenders. For example, stalkers should be distinguished from sadistic pedophiles.

Advocates of doing away with registries are quick to champion the rights of the offenders but often neglect considering the impact sexual crimes have on the victims. Those who argue that offenders have the right to get on with their lives forget that, in many cases, the victims cannot. It is not right to let even more people be put at risk for such pain without warning while the offenders get a chance to start over that they might not be able to handle. Sex offenders have proven themselves to be dangerous people, and we should be able to protect ourselves and our children from foreseeable crimes. Are subsequent sex crimes foreseeable? Of course! The preponderance of re-offending is what necessitated the registries in the first place.

Ali Pearson and Nathan Keller  
Junior and Sophomore

### Despite column that criticized, overachievers should be proud

It's amazing how a person can be so eager to publicly condemn the actions of others when said actions have no negative effect on that person. Prajwal Sharma's attack of students' priorities is a great example of this concept [Oct. 6 issue of the Index]. As someone who, by Sharma's terms, leads "one sorry life" because "schoolwork does occupy [my] weekends," I have a few things I'd like to explain to Sharma and those with similar mindsets.

First, people are different, an obvious fact that is so often overlooked. Yes, some believe that college is a time and place to try everything, and it's the time in people's lives when they should have fun because their time will soon be occupied with work and families. These people have a low need for cognition and simply don't care much about their GPA – they just want to have fun.

But some of us, including myself, aren't like that. "Relaxing" isn't always possible for me because I value performance, and attempts to relax are so often thwarted by my conscience, which reminds me that I'm at college to work, not to play. To many, letting the years go by without attempting to live up to one's potential is a "pathetic excuse for a life." We might be stressed, but we're not miserable. Some of us get a sense of pride from our accomplishments, and that makes them worth the stress. In high school I was a member of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Missouri All-State Orchestra as a cellist in each of my four years.

I also was a state qualifier in swimming, a member of the varsity water polo team and managed to bring 48 credits into college while maintaining a 4.29 GPA. I no longer participate in aquatics, and I hardly ever touch my cello, but even if I had known that I would no longer engage in these activities and that they are meaningless in the grand scheme of things, I wouldn't have changed anything because I can take pride in my accomplishments. How many people do you know who pulled that off? Our values might be different from yours, but that doesn't make them illogical.

Also, some of us feel we owe it to the citizens of the state of Missouri, who help finance this institution, to make judicious use of our time rather than slacking off and drinking up. I'm not saying that people shouldn't enjoy themselves from time to time, but let us not forget why we're here.

I hope Sharma and the others who share his views can realize that some of us just have a high need for achievement, which outweighs the stress we endure in the process. If anyone still thinks we who devote almost all of our time and energy to our studies are pathetic, I suggest that if you ever need surgery, put your safety in the hands of someone who barely graduated from medical school and was happy just getting by rather than learning enough to be competent.

Patrick Merritt  
Senior

### Involvement, scholarship will lead to more well-rounded individuals

I am writing in response to Mr. Sharma's editorial about Truman students needing to better prioritize their lives, calling those of us who are involved "trying to excel in everything they do, making most of them miserable people." I wholeheartedly disagree. I'm not miserable at all. Sure, I'll admit some students are obsessed with exceptional grades for one reason or another, but you'll find those students at any college or university you go to.

Sharma seemed to put down the idea of so many of us being involved in many clubs and organizations and at the least seemed to put us down for being involved at all. As one of these crazy students who happens to be involved in more than one organization and strives to get good grades on top of that, I'm a bit offended that someone would put me and several other students down just because we reach a little further to accomplish our goals. Those of us who do homework on the weekends are the ones who when interviewing for a job will have not only an academic transcript worth gloating about but also a rich leadership transcript that we'll probably be even more proud of.

And God forbid any of us do homework on the weekends – is that a crime? If Mr. Sharma doesn't have homework on the weekends, super, but I do, and whether I'm involved in 50 organizations or not, my workload still forces me to do at least some homework on the weekends. I 100 percent disagree that doing homework on the weekends is, as Sharma states, "one pathetic excuse for a life." I have homework, organizations I have leadership positions in, and I have a social life. Maybe some Truman students do need to prioritize but not cut down on what we do by any means. I think as long as we can be organized and keep up with our first commitment, school, then we are not losers for doing homework on weekends or catching up on other tasks. In all actuality, this makes us better people and very well-rounded individuals. And by the way, not all of us are joining organizations just to

see how many we can join, or joining for a "sad résumé attempt," as Sharma seems to think. When Sharma ended his column with "please end your passionate embrace with books and homework during the weekends. You lead one sorry life if schoolwork does occupy your weekends," I just laughed. Maybe I want to read further ahead in a class, or maybe I'm just really interested in what I'm learning.

I encourage students to be involved. Don't let someone who doesn't strive as hard as you make you feel incompetent. We'll see who gets the job after that interview.

Rebecca Hadley  
Junior

### 'Smear campaign' by columnist was damaging to professor in question

I have no personal relationship with Silvia Pites (other than occasionally saying hello in the hallway), and I have no idea what happened in Salamanca this past summer – which gives me the exact same qualifications as columnist Chris Matthews [Oct. 6 issue of the Index], who nonetheless felt free to smear her with damaging innuendo in your last issue. Having an office right across from Dr. Pites, I am often distracted by students greeting her warmly (and loudly), chattering with her about their study abroad experiences, giving her updates on their host families, etc. They seem anything but dissatisfied. Anecdotal evidence is hardly conclusive, of course, a point Mr. Matthews should keep in mind. Kudos to the Index for refusing to print an article without adequate evidence. Shame on the Index for giving space to Mr. Matthews to mount personal smear campaigns. Accountability is a fine thing for faculty, administrators, students, and yes, even columnists.

Mary Shapiro  
Associate Professor of Linguistics

### Sex offenders should be punished and protected against, not coddled

Katie Gilbert's column admonishing the sex offender registry reaches a new level of ignorance. Granted, there might be a few problems with the system but none so dubious that they warrant this kind of idealistic condemnation. The government has the duty to empower its citizenry with the knowledge to keep them safe. I'm confused – does Gilbert think that child molesters should be allowed to live near schools? If a rapist moved into her neighborhood, would she not want to know? According to the Center for Sex Offender Management, sex offenders have a 52 percent recidivism rate. One out of every two offenders released from prison will be going back. We're talking about a 25-year study here. These people are mentally ill, they aren't committing more crimes because they are being ostracized (which one could argue is more than deserved), they commit these crimes because they are sick. A few years of hard time can't turn them into normal human beings with normal sexual urges, and in the meantime more and more lives are permanently scarred from their deviance. In this country when you are convicted of a felony, you lose certain rights.

When a criminal rapes and takes a woman's dignity or hurts a child and takes away a childhood, limited housing selection hardly seems like enough. Until prisons focus on reforming criminals, we need the information to protect those we love and especially those too young to protect themselves.

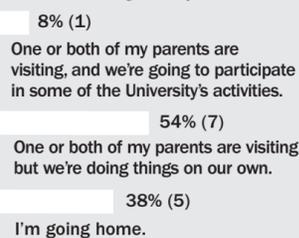
Adam Baran  
Sophomore

## INDEX Web poll

### What are your plans for Family Day?

#### Oct. 11 Results

as of midnight Tuesday



**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:** [vote online at www.trumanindex.com](http://www.trumanindex.com)  
At what point did you decide on a major?

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## Editorial policy

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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.

First copies are free. Additional copies are 25 cents.

## Index corrections

- Chris Waller mistakenly was given credit for the photo on Page 17 of the Oct. 6 issue of the Index. The photographer was Adam Kabins.

## Letters policy

The Index welcomes letters to the editor from the University community. Letters to the editor are due by noon 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 also may be submitted by e-mail at [index@truman.edu](mailto:index@truman.edu) or on our Web site at [www.trumanindex.com](http://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.