

OUR VIEW

Scott's actions make it clear that he should resign

Kirkville City Councilman Rich Scott has reached his third strike.

Scott was put into police protective custody Sunday at about 1:30 a.m. after officers found him intoxicated on the street, attempting to get into the driver's seat of his car (See story, Page 1). This is Scott's third alcohol-related run-in with Kirkville police since he

[Scott's] conduct in public, aside from private domestic affairs, is intolerable for a citizen of such stature.

In July, he was arrested after an alleged domestic assault involving his wife, who later declined to press charges. In January, he was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Nine months later, resolution still is pending in that case, and officials say Scott won't have a court date until sometime in November.

It is true that political leaders, like all of us, should be allowed some semblance of a private, personal life. However, having a "personal life" does not mean Scott should be exempt from scrutiny for repeatedly breaking or attempting to break the law. Scott's behavior is not acceptable for a city leader elected by the people, and we believe that it is time for him to step down. His conduct reflects poorly on our city, and we as Kirkville residents and registered voters in Adair County have had enough. Scott should vacate his position on City Council effective immediately so the council can appoint someone else who would be more responsible with this leadership position.

We understand that the resignation

of another City Council member so soon after that of former Mayor Debbie Masten could leave the City Council in an even more fragmented state.

However, this new vacancy would allow for a new shift in power structure, and the council would be able to better accomplish its business. As the council stands, important votes, such as the appointment of a fifth council member, could constantly stand deadlocked in a 2-2 vote until the April election.

The City of Kirkville has suffered from an enormous leadership vacuum in the

last two years. Masten's troubles have been well-documented (see Page 4 of the Sept. 1 issue of the Index), and Scott's actions since his election in April 2004 similarly have been incompatible with what the city needs from its leaders. To remedy this, Kirkville needs more qualified candidates for upcoming municipal elections. In a city with the slogan, "Where people make the difference," we need elected officials who will do just that by providing the leadership necessary to get the job done.

But as for Scott, we vote no confidence in him. His conduct in public, aside from his private domestic affairs, is intolerable for a citizen of such stature. Scott's actions have been reprehensible, and his behavior is proof of his lack of the responsibility that city voters require from their elected leaders.

Truville

Perrin Carrell/cartoonist



Perrin Carrell

Letters to the Editor

Alpha Phi Omega believes Index coverage was misrepresentative

As members of Alpha Phi Omega co-ed service fraternity, the largest organization on campus, we would like to share our extreme dissatisfaction with the Index's coverage of the Violette Hall "no-food-or-drink" policy violations [Sept. 29 issue of the Index]. The article misrepresented our organization's actions and ideals. Among the many errors, our membership would like to point out that:

1. Use of the word "snuck" implies an underhanded intention to do wrong although APO never has intentionally broken campus policy in regards to food.

2. Stating that "every" organization would lose room reservation privileges due to APO's actions is not correct. The written warning sent to our president and adviser specifically states, "Any future reports of Alpha Phi Omega's break of the no-food-or-drink policy in either VH 1010 or VH 1000 by your organization will revoke your organization's privilege..."

3. The context of all quotes included in the article skew the story.

4. The meeting for which APO received its warning was for recruitment, food was not present for mass dispersal, and most present were not members.

5. Executive members were never informed of any verbal warning by Stanley Dixon.

6. We do not have 140 members. We have closer to 170 members.

7. Linda Davenport's comments are irrelevant. APO has used VH 1010 twice this semester for open recruitment meetings only.

8. APO never serves pizza, and members do not eat dinner at our regular Tuesday chapter meetings in VH 1000. Note that this was represented incorrectly by Grace Mattie as 6 p.m. Thursdays in VH 1010.

9. Matt Lucas' quote was altered inappropriately - we are not the last group in VH 1010.

10. Both previous to and after receiving our first warning, APO has cleaned thoroughly once our meetings are over - this has been a long-standing duty of the president. In fact, we often find ourselves cleaning up the remnants of organizations who gathered previous to us in VH 1000.

11. We as a chapter agree with Chem-barker's quote that students should not have to walk through trash as they enter class. This again highlights an issue of context in the article as well as pointing to errors in the factual content as our meetings happen to coincide with the time when students are dealing with this issue.

We would like to see the Index work harder to publish accurate and unbiased news in order to maintain integrity among their readers as well as protecting the reputation of other campus organizations, an effort which falls on the shoulders of not only reporters but the editing staff as well. We also feel all organizations should work together to keep Violette Hall available for student use. It is unfair for the Index or other organizations to target APO in this manner - note the title of the article was "Groups risk room," not "Group."

Elizabeth Carrington
President, Alpha Phi Omega

When it comes to watershed land, it is unwise to trust safety to luck

Here's a response to Kathy Roberts' Sept. 22 letter to the editor. The City of Kirksville sold 426 acres of its land adjacent to Hazel Creek Lake to a cattle rancher in January 2005. Kirksville draws its water from Forest Lake and Hazel Creek Lake, so the Hazel Creek Concerned Citizens Committee (HCCCC) was formed with concerns about water safety. Consider Walkerton, Ontario, where downpours in May 2000 washed E. coli contaminants from manure on surrounding fields into its water supply. A rash of gastrointestinal attacks followed. Soon nearly half the townspeople were sick, 962 people were hospitalized, and seven died. Kirksville can avoid such a fate. As the New Orleans flood shows, precautions are better than trusting luck. So the HCCCC pressed for appointing knowledgeable persons to a new Watershed Commission.

Most people in the HCCCC are not Truman employees or students. More than 500 people attended a special meeting in January, upset about the sale being rushed through with a minimum of public notice during the holiday season. Kirksville bought the Hazel Creek land in 1980 to block construction of a hazardous waste dump. Citizens value this land, and they should have had a voice on whether to keep it or not before the City Council approved the sales contract.

Kirksville's re-acquisition of this land should be considered to avoid heightened risk of E. coli contamination. The HCCCC will say more in coming weeks about protection and appropriate use of Kirksville's watersheds. More than 3,000 people have signed a petition on this matter. With former Mayor Masten's resignation from the City Council, a 2-2 split will prevent the council from selling any more watershed land. In April 2006, we must elect people who see watershed protection as the most cost-effective assurance of safe drinking water.

James Turner
Associate Professor of Accounting

Burns' letter ignores the existence of separate American dreams

Although I called for a meaningful discussion about the future of our nation-state, in his letter [Sept. 22 issue of the Index] Jonathon Burns appears to be interested in affixing labels. He employs the term "leftist" to neatly tag my politics and to subtly link my alleged views with the controversial politics that Langston Hughes endorsed in the aftermath of the Great Depression. Mr. Burns is correct in that Hughes offered embarrassing support to Josef Stalin. As concerns my use of Hughes's poem, however, that matter is a red herring. For Mr. Burns, it seems to provide grounds to not only indict my character but also to assert, "Rather than question the proper role for the federal government, Griggs seeks merely a purging of the current government." Excuse me?

For the record, by quoting Langston Hughes and criticizing the government response to Katrina due to my anger at the plights faced by the poor and minorities, I am not asking that the current government be "purged." Unfortunately, Mr. Burns fails to qualify his use of this word which threatens to evoke images of secret police aggression, government-caused paranoia and mass executions of innocent citizens. I also am appalled by such atrocities.

By criticizing the social injustice that

Katrina brought forth and quoting Langston Hughes' poem, I meant to argue that daunting macroeconomic factors have consistently marginalized inner-city and rural neighborhoods alike. Why? Perhaps because the upper and middle classes, ignorantly or not, have traded off social and ethical responsibilities for their own prosperity. To employ the familiar language, it seems that those of us in such classes have little incentive to do otherwise. Perhaps it is more comforting to uphold the virtues of a Bill Gates and to decry the vices of the poor, who could also pull themselves up by the bootstraps had they the ambition and some old-fashioned discipline! Perhaps many of us just don't know, understand and empathize with the plights that others regularly encounter. Perhaps we haven't moved beyond stereotypes and superficial roles to communication.

In closing, it seems that there are two prominent American dreams, among many. One narrative prizes unmediated capitalist opportunity and the accumulation of wealth. The other insists on and encourages democratic participation and responsibility. One is more private, one is more public. For many, increasingly at home and abroad, the first dream becomes yet another road to serfdom. As a people, as a United States of America, we have yet to fully value the second dream.

Shaune Griggs
Junior

Sept. 29 article on room usage places APO in negative light

After having read the article regarding the use of the rooms in Violette Hall [Sept. 29 issue of the Index], I feel that this article not only misrepresents the situation as a whole but also shines a negative light on Alpha Phi Omega as an organization. First and foremost, many of the points stated in this article as fact are gross errors. Not only does APO not use the room that was in question in the article, but the quote from Linda Davenport makes it seem as if she uses the room following APO each week although the two meetings are on different days.

Furthermore, the idea that APO's room use will affect the entire campus is false. Each organization on campus is responsible for its actions and will be granted or denied privileges based on this. In no way will other organizations lose their rights to the room because of APO, and it is worth noting that after the week in question in the article, every organization was sent a letter discussing the use of the rooms in Violette Hall.

Last, I personally have always thought of the Index as a paper with a higher commitment to reporting the facts concerning students on Truman's campus. I was astounded to see this publication single out a student organization and pit others against it over something as not newsworthy as the room use in Violette Hall. Organizations are reprimanded for room use every semester, and until now it never was a campuswide issue that anyone has taken concern with.

APO is an upstanding service organization concerned with what is best for the Truman campus and community. This article has unfairly done irreparable damage to the image of this organization, and I personally feel that APO deserves an apology.

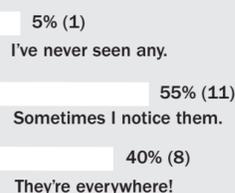
Amber Stratman
Senior

INDEX Web poll

Have you had any bug infestation problems in your place of residence?

Oct. 4 Results

as of midnight Tuesday



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

vote online at
www.trumanindex.com

What are your plans for Family Day?

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Editorial policy

The Index is published 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.

First copies are free. Additional copies are 25 cents.

Index corrections

- The last paragraph of the tri-state summit story on Page 3 of the Sept. 29 Index mistakenly referred to Jim Mentesi instead of referring to Heidi Templeton.
- Chris Waller mistakenly was given credit for the photo on Page 17 of the Sept. 29 issue of the Index. The photographer was Chris Tharp.
- Several errors were made in the "Groups risk room" story on Page 1 of the Sept. 29 issue of the Index. Stanley Dixon said he never filed an official report but gave some students verbal warnings. There are 173 members in APO, not 140. Finally, APO meetings start at 8:15 p.m. in VH 1000.
- Junior Katie Buehler was misidentified as junior Melissa Snodgrass in a photo on Page 15 of the Sept. 29 issue of the Index.
- Alumna Melissa Dudak was misidentified as senior Becky Dinsick in a photo on Page 20 of the Sept. 29 issue of the Index.

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 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.