

## OUR VIEW

## New Senate must prove its relevance to students

The annual Student Senate elections are approaching (see Stories, Pages 1 and 10). Perhaps a more compelling question than who the winners will be is whether anyone outside the candidates' circle of friends will care enough to vote.

The Index's weekly Around the Quad segment, found on Page 5, interviewed seven separate students this week, asking them two questions about the upcoming election. None of the seven expressed any degree of interest or knowledge about Senate whatsoever. We will concede that this is by no means any semblance of a representative sample of students, but seven students chosen randomly who are completely unaware of Senate happenings should raise a red flag.

Senate elections often are based on a conglomeration of various campus organizations, thrown together in temporary electoral alliances and whose members quickly lose interest after the elections. According to the April 21, 2005, online issue of the Index, fewer than 1,300 students cast ballots for Senate president, which is less than a quarter of the University's 6,000 students. How many students truly engaged with the week-to-week happenings of student government were included? We would guess less than half that number.

The blame for students' ambivalence toward Senate should fall largely on Senate itself, which clearly has done a poor job of articulating its accomplishments. Unfortunately, an examination of the Index's Senate reports during the last year paints a picture of an organization with a considerable budget but that actually has accomplished very little of substance. Senate needs a clear,

articulate public-relations blitz to convince the rest of the campus that it's a relevant organization.

Second, however, we would like to offer our preliminary support for Senate's decision to place provisional membership in Missouri Students United! on the ballot (See Our View, March 30 issue of the Index).

The biggest problem we as an editorial board articulated was the potential for the organization to play fast and loose with an exorbitant budget, but the proposed provisional membership would be free to students.

The University and specifically Senate must examine United!

with a critical eye during this time, however. During the course of the University's provisional membership in United!, we call on the United! leadership to address the questions we set forward March 30, specifically, what kind of oversight or board of directors will check the United! leadership, and how they will prove their organization is any different from the now-defunct Student Association of Missouri, save for the word "union"? In addition, United!'s leaders owe its potential members an explanation of how it plans to allocate the enormous fees it will charge its members. Students deserve and should demand to have these questions answered given the lofty promises of United! leadership. If all of these questions are not answered in the most satisfactory manner, we call on the soon-to-be-elected Senate to end provisional membership in United!.

The new senators must address these issues and prove to the students that they should care about what Senate is doing.

Perhaps a more compelling question ... is whether anyone outside the candidates' circle of friends will care enough to vote.

## Truville

Perrin Carrell/cartoonist



## Letters to the Editor

### Residents' electoral decisions prove they were uninformed

Kirkville and Adair County residents made some very poor choices in Tuesday's municipal election, which, in my opinion, just goes to demonstrate how poorly informed the voters in this city and county are.

To soundly approve the Ambulance District Sales Tax, which should have been a property tax given its nature, and to reject the temporary Parks and Recreation Sales Tax, which would have funded much-needed improvements to Kirkville's parks, was, in a word, ignorant.

The ambulance district would be better served with a property tax increase, which is far less regressive than a sales tax. Additionally, seeing as the ambulance district is limited to Adair County residents, it should be funded by only those people who live in the county and not by those who live elsewhere but shop in the county.

The parks tax, however, was desperately needed. Arguments made by some less-than-informed City Council candidates at the candidates forum March 28 against the tax in all likelihood reflected the uninformed nature of most of the residents of Kirkville. The sales tax was also temporary, not long-term, and would have provided much-needed safety and equipment improvements at all the parks. A great disservice has been done to the children of both the city and county – in other words, the constituents these improvements would have benefited were completely left without a voice in the choice.

As far as Kirkville City Council and School Board, I have to say I was greatly disappointed in some choices there, too. As far as school board, anyone who watched the candidates forum could clearly see that the two candidates who were best informed, most articulate and had actual ideas for the future of the school district were Neal Chamberlain and Patrick Foglesong. At least voters got it half right.

As for Kirkville City Council, I was more disappointed in the choices for the three vacancies than anything else. With nine candidates, I would expect three clear-cut choices for the position. Only one candidate stood out as informed and prepared: Jill Wimp McCord. She presented a clear platform for tenure on City Council, and I was pleased to see her elected. As far as the other choices, it was more of a process of elimination than a clear-cut decision. None of the remaining candidates articulated a clear vision and goals for the city during the forum, and I found that disappointing.

Finally, I would like to direct my disappointment at the local media. None of our media provided our citizens with decent coverage of the candidates and issues leading up to the election. In fact, it was rarely mentioned, or when it was, the coverage was superficial at best. How can we expect our citizens to be informed when the very institutions that are supposed to inform us fail so miserably in their tasks?

Steven Chappell  
Assistant Professor of Communication

### ITS should have more to show for its work on class registration

The March 30 issue of the Index contained an article about ITS' success with on-line registration. In response to heavy traffic concerns, for the first time ITS attempted to overload TruView and work out problems with traffic. This test should have been done many semesters ago because online registration has created major problems.

Truman began developing online registration during the 2001-02 school year

to create a faster and easier method for registration. During 2002 ITS developed and ran three mock registrations. Although the services offered on TruView are a few years old, after five live registrations, ITS and the Truman server should be more adept at handling student traffic during the registration period.

As a sophomore I have battled my way through TruView twice, and already I see a pattern emerging. In my experience with online course registration, TruView consistently slows down and fails to load due to the amount of traffic on the Web site. While annoying, it also creates more serious problems. Last spring when I attempted to register for fall 2005 classes, I encountered more than traffic problems. I eventually succeeded in logging onto TruView, but because it was a few minutes after students were allowed to register, I was unable to register for the necessary classes.

Every student encounters difficulty with registration and deciding which courses to enroll in, but as a psychology and biology double major, I have very specific courses that I need to complete the necessary prerequisites. Unable to register in the biology course I needed, I was forced to enroll in one of only two upper-class biology courses that did not require more prerequisites.

This trouble with registration will create backlash for all of my subsequent semesters. ITS should have this problem under control, and I hope registration this upcoming week is as successful as ITS would have you believe.

Joanna Dawson  
Sophomore

### SAB president responds to criticism about spring concert selection

I am writing in regards to Shannan Anderson's editorial last Thursday about SAB's concert selection and SAB's use of the student activities fee. Since SAB is the largest campus entertainment provider, we value student input and continually strive to better serve the campus. As a result, I was interested to read Anderson's personal opinions concerning our concert selection among other things. However, putting opinions aside, I would like to clear up a few discrepancies in Anderson's article as well as invite all students to an open forum.

First, SAB works very closely with a booking agency to find up-to-date touring prices for musical acts. Once we have a list of musical acts in our price range, acts are selected for the student survey. I say this because we want to assure the student population that SAB does not want to instill a false sense of hope. While there are other costs associated with putting on a concert (stage, lighting, insurance, on-call emergency help, etc.), the musical acts on SAB's spring concert survey were all in our price range. As for the survey this past semester, we were able to afford Ryan Cabrera, Rufus Wainwright, Tori Amos, Brand New and all others on the survey.

Now, prices aside, the second thing that must be in our range are dates. It is very tricky to find musical acts that work with the few dates that SAB is able to reserve in Pershing Arena. Although a group may be within our price range, if they are not able to perform on a date that Pershing is not booked with an athletic event, SAB must move on to the next band.

Next, while the current student activities fee for campus is \$36 a semester, the entire fee does not go to SAB. The activities fee is divided between SAB, the Funds Allotment Council (FAC), Student Senate and the College Readership Program. SAB

receives 50 percent of the \$36 fee each semester. While the activities fee brings in a net gross of \$400,000 each year, SAB receives \$200,000 and divides it between six committees to program activities, comedians, films and concerts for campus. Also, the activities fee was reviewed and voted on by all students last spring – students voted to keep the activities fee at \$36 a semester.

Lastly, while it is the job and duty of SAB to please Truman students as much as possible, we understand that we cannot please everyone when it comes to planning events, especially concerts. However, if you feel that your money is not being handled well, you are entitled and welcomed to let us know how you feel.

I am extending an open invitation to the entire Truman campus for SAB's Open Forum on April 24 at 6 p.m. in the Activities Room of the Student Union Building. SAB values student input, and we highly encourage you to attend for many reasons. It will give you an opportunity to see how SAB functions, and the steps taken to program campus events as well as a chance to talk with SAB members and to let us know how we can better serve the student population.

We want to hear what you have to say and want to answer any questions you may have. If you cannot attend the forum, we would still love to hear your questions and comments. Please feel free to e-mail us at SAB@truman.edu.

Thank you for your time, and we hope to see you April 24.

Drew Spiegel  
Junior  
Student Activities Board President

### Manner in which Seder meal is advertised to campus is misleading

I am writing to draw attention to a major example of deceptive advertising on this campus.

Last Thursday I began to notice small orange fliers all around campus. At first, they grabbed my attention with their prominently featured Star of David. I continued to read: "Traditional Jewish Seder!" As president of Hillel, the campus Jewish group, I knew that a Jewish family in Kirkville had organized a Passover Seder, yet this was certainly not Hillel's advertisement. Perplexed, I finally reached the bottom of the flier. In small letters, I read: "Sponsored by Campus Crusade and CCF."

I am strongly offended by this blatant deception on the part of Campus Crusade and CCF. These fliers use a Jewish symbol, the Star of David and promises of a "traditional Jewish Seder" to lure curious students to an event that, I can assure you, will be neither traditional nor Jewish.

I fully accept the right of Campus Crusade and CCF to host this event. But to advertise it in such a manner is downright dishonest. An explicitly Christian "Seder" must not be mistaken for an actual Jewish ceremony. As a Jew in a strongly Christian campus, I feel that my religion is being belittled by organizations that use our religious symbol to advertise an event that is anything but Jewish.

I do not believe that either group had such nefarious intentions when they advertised their event. But I must point out the effects of their poor planning. I can only hope that in the future both organizations will be more careful and sensitive to other faiths when they plan such events.

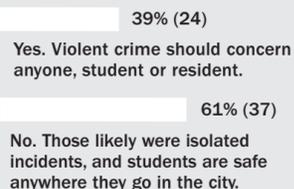
Eran Feintuch  
Senior  
Hillel President

## INDEX Web poll

After the two recent murders in or around Kirkville, has your opinion of the city's safety changed?

### April 11 Results

as of midnight Tuesday



**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:** Should the University become a member of Missouri Students United!, the new statewide student union?

vote online at  
www.trumanindex.com

## INDEX

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Serving the University community since 1909

## 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

- Based on a preponderance of factual misrepresentations, the editorial board has decided to take Larry Iles' letter to the editor from the April 6 issue of the Index down from the Index's Web site.

## 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.