

OUR VIEW

ACT must remain one of University's requirements

It's disappointing that any faculty member or administrator would even consider doing away with the University's admission requirement of the ACT (See Story, Page 1).

But John Fraire, associate vice president of enrollment management, and Candy Young, professor of political science, said such discussions are taking place among University decision-makers.

According to the National Center for Fair and Open Testing, colleges and universities that have done away with the ACT or SAT requirement have enjoyed "a more diverse student body and a high level of academic quality." Compared to what, we ask? This misleading statement is no doubt true if universities are compared to a community college. But until we read testimony from schools that explicitly state that the institution has become a better place because the standardized-test requirement has been dropped, such a statement should be completely disregarded.

Between the coasts, the ACT is the bread-and-butter test that measures students' cognitive abilities in four areas. Critics of the ACT point to a correlation between family income and ACT score. We point to a correlation between family income and child's eventual income or perhaps even performance in college. Those who want to do away with the standardized-test requirement wish to create a school where cognitive ability is irrelevant.

However, this University is no place for that. Truman is not Central Missouri State University (Warrensburg) and it is not even the University of Missouri-Columbia. It is the state's premiere public university and

the Midwest's top public Masters-level institution. Truman is mentioned in the same breath as prestigious private schools such as Valparaiso University (Ind.) and the University of Creighton (Omaha, Neb.) because of its impressive standards and stringent academic requirements.

Young's assessments of the consequences of such a move are dead-on: doing away with the requirement simply to increase a head count would be disastrous for the University's long-term health. Truman students are gifted, ambitious and often over-achievers. Suitable performance on the ACT is a reliable indicator to the Office of Admissions that a student will be able to perform up to the University's standards. If the University ceases considering ACT scores, its standards begin to erode. Period.

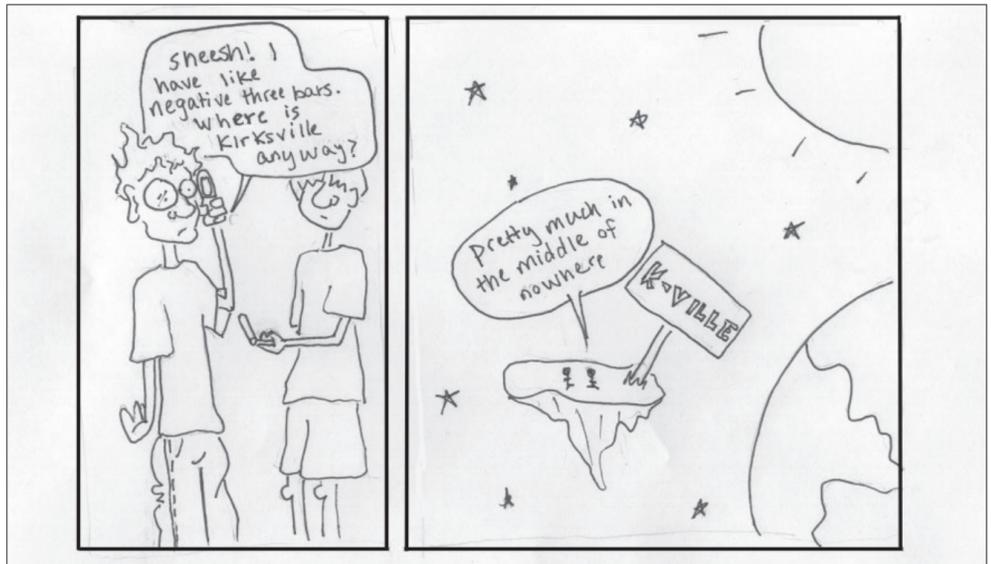
Fraire claimed the University might somehow benefit from the change, as the administration would be able to meet its imprudent 16:1 goal by increasing enrollment. What Fraire effectively is saying is that by accepting students who couldn't spend \$29 and a Saturday morning to take the ACT, the University somehow might be better off. However, it's the job of the administration to actively recruit qualified high-school seniors who are up to the University's high standards, not give free passes to students who don't want to take an entrance exam.

Some may think relaxing admissions requirements may lead to a more "diverse" student body. We have a message for those within the administration who are considering doing away with the ACT requirement: Not at Truman.

What those who want to do away with the ... requirement wish to do is create a school where cognitive ability is irrelevant.

Truville

Perrin Carrell/cartoonist



Letters to the Editor

Mainstreet's policy shouldn't necessarily benefit just faculty

By now, I'm sure almost everyone is aware that parts of the Student Union Building will be shut down to undergo massive renovations beginning this summer. These renovations would include an extended Down Under, an updated quiet lounge, more accessible elevators and a larger Mainstreet Market.

As it is now, Mainstreet Market has a policy of accepting cash only (no meal blocks or dining dollars) during lunchtime so that professors and other faculty can get through the line and back to class. This was an issue with at least one Student Senate presidential candidate – they ask why the Student Union is catering to faculty in the first place.

I ask myself the same question. I personally have nothing against letting professors get through quickly, but why shut the student body out of their own Student Union? Since these renovations are close at hand (and I'll bet they haven't been finalized), why not dedicate one checkout lane to cash customers only, no matter what time of day, so that faculty and students can both enjoy the new and improved Mainstreet whenever they want?

Gravin Conkling
Freshman

Columnist should have responded to critic by a different means

This letter is in response to Joel Andersen's editorial in the April 13 issue, in which he addressed a particular student who had come up to him and expressed his negative feelings about Joel's column. I agree that the student who was largely the subject of said editorial was not exactly displaying the most constructive criticism I've ever heard of, but he also did not deserve to be put on the spot in a whiny rant badly disguised as an instruction guide for writing a letter to the editor. Some examples are when Joel describes how he had to hold himself back from laughing in the student's face, or when he encourages the student to "pick up the pen and paper and make use of his opposable thumbs."

I find it interesting that to you, Mr. Anderson, bigwig Index editorialist, all of us Index readers (who may just have some criticisms of your column) seem so stupid that you must explain to us how we differ from lower life forms. Finally, when "getting into a protracted letter-writing duel which dissolves into a competition to see who has the biggest pen" was listed as a final tip for writing a letter to the editor, Joel struck first and showed us all that he, in fact, does have the biggest pen. In case you were wondering, I am not the student that was ridiculed in the editorial, just someone who felt bad for him. One way that I differ from that student is that I feel the best way to express your feelings about the column of a particular writer is to write a personal e-mail to that person, rather than trying to publicly ridicule them.

For this letter, however, I decided to do the same to the editorial writer as he did to his "biggest fan." Have a nice day.

Craig Hermann
Senior

Overeaters Anonymous is a key ally in battling eating disorders

I was glad to see the articles on eating disorders, anorexia, bulimia and obesity but surprised to read nothing about Overeaters Anonymous (April 13 issue of the Index). Compulsive overeating is a problem for so many women, and men, too. We stuff down our feelings with food, binge when we're alone or spend too much money on junk food. "Just love yourself" is a great philosophy, but it's just not that simple. I don't think an antidepressant is generally "an ideal solution" either.

Addictions are complex. Discovering why we practice them isn't always the solution though it can help. As OA "literature" makes clear, willpower and confidence are no match against an addiction. No matter how hard we tried on our own, we could not control our eating. Our best intentions and promises to ourselves never worked. In OA we found the help we needed to stop overeating (or undereating or purging) and start feeling better about ourselves. We learned to live just one day at a time. We lost weight and kept it off.

Best of all, we found peace of mind and a place where we belong. OA is not a diet club. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively. We do not weigh you. We charge no dues or fees. We do not sign you in. We use only first names and respect your anonymity. We do not tell you what you should eat. We talk about what is eating us instead of what we are eating. We share experience, strength and hope, so we no longer need to escape into food. We don't do it alone. You don't have to either.

OA is not affiliated with any public or private organization, political movement, ideology or religious doctrine. It is a threefold program, spiritual, emotional and physical, modeled on the proven, workable method of Alcoholics Anonymous, that has helped so many people since the 1930s. There are members of many religions as well as atheists and agnostics. Everyone is welcome.

If you want freedom from yo-yo dieting and compulsion, want peer understanding, renewed self-esteem, a healthier body and a new attitude toward life, come try a few meetings and see what OA is all about. We have a meeting Fridays at 1:15 p.m., the Beacon Club, 209 1/2 W. Washington St., rear door. Questions? Call me at 665-2180 or 216-4559. And my most sincere thanks to the Index for the community service of printing this information.

Isabel Wister
Kirksville Resident

Editorial board's correction strikes resident as 'McCarthyist' action

I am not only once but attacked twice in your April 13 issue without initially myself critiquing you as a newspaper "policy" institution at all. But in manners I would unhesitatingly call McCarthyite Americanism of the very worst sort. Why, well the manner of the abuse is so oblique and general, that indeed the charges are unspecific, no detail adequately furnished, that they are designed to be refuted smearingly, and I am confident would constitute defamation in my own country's law courts.

Firstly, I am arbitrarily told at the footnote of that issue's letters page that

Larry Iles
Kirksville Resident

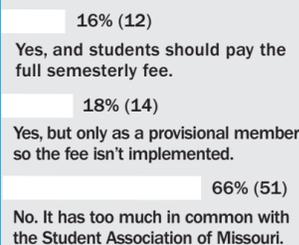
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Web poll

Should the University become a member of Missouri Students United! the new statewide student union?

April 25 Results

as of midnight Tuesday



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

vote online at
www.trumanindex.com

Should the University do away with its requirement that incoming students must take the ACT?

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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

- A number of quotes from Sherri Palmer on Page 11 of the April 13 were inaccurate. Palmer is a strict vegetarian and thus does not eat bacon. Palmer said Jewish law, not tradition, prohibits tattoos. She did not consider getting a tattoo for "coming of age" reasons. Finally, Palmer did not discuss whether to get a tattoo with anyone other than her husband, daughter and one friend.

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.