

## OUR VIEW

## University's scholarship decision is a step forward

University President Barbara Dixon's decision to create a scale for scholarship renewal is a positive step in the University's effort to improve the way financial aid is distributed (see Page 1).

A scholarship task force Dixon created provided a recommendation to the president's office to change the renewal and appeals processes. Before this new policy was put into place, students falling below a 3.25 GPA could lose their entire financial aid director Melinda Wood said Dixon approved a new policy, effective immediately, to award partial aid on a sliding scale to students whose GPAs fell between 3.0-3.24.

Wood said students meeting the 3.25 threshold will retain their full scholarship for the following year. Students within the 3.20 to 3.24 range, however, instead of entering the appeals process, will retain 90 percent of their original award. Those falling between 3.10 and 3.19 will retain 80 percent of their original award, and students between 3.0 and 3.09 will keep 70 percent.

A student carrying a B average or better through a challenging institution such as Truman simply should not be in danger of losing much of his or her financial aid. In this era of rising tuition and student costs and, at best, budget stagnation, this straightforward policy of scholarship renewal will allow students to plan better for their time at the University. If the University prides itself on challenging its students, the administration also should

acknowledge that students maintaining a B average or higher are worthy of retaining at least most of their original financial aid.

In our view, the manner in which scholarships previously were appealed was too subjective. The now-disbanded five-member scholarship appeals committee appointed by Dixon was in charge of reviewing the appeals on an individual basis. Students appealed the loss of their award through a letter given to the committee and had the opportunity to spin various explanations as to why GPAs fell below 3.25.

The committee was no doubt fair and thorough, but without an iron scale from which to work, the possibility for subjectivity lurked. The way students are awarded automatic scholarships is regulated and based on the incoming student's GPA and ACT scores. The manner in which the scholarships are retracted also should be as such.

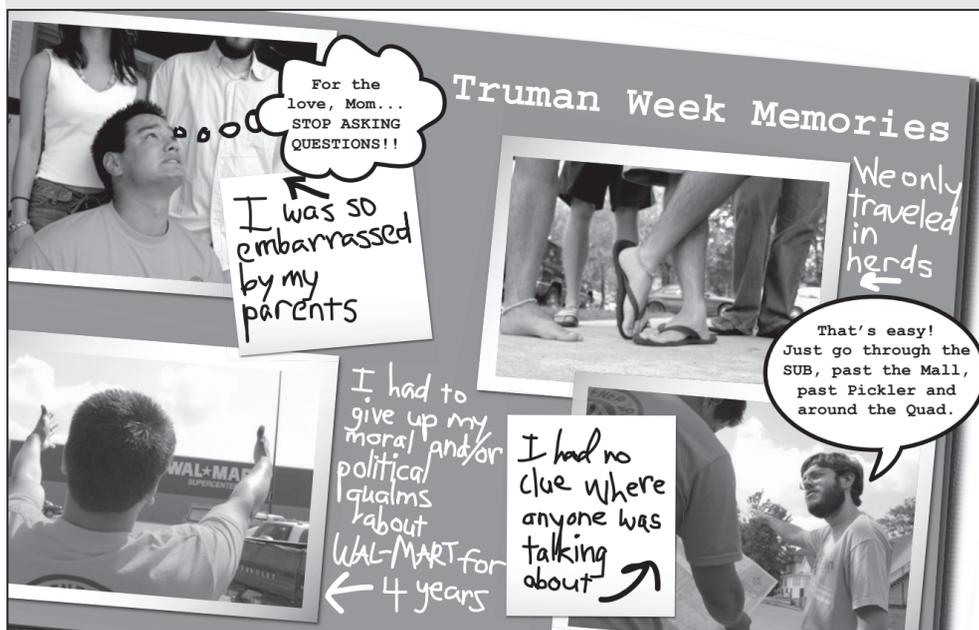
One of the University's most effective sales pitches to prospective students is its generosity with financial aid, specifically to students from Missouri. But if students' awards are removed, the University has a duty to be direct as to the amount of the award that can be retained, as well as the way that amount will be determined. It is the job of the student to remain responsible and diligent when aiming for the 3.25 threshold, but it also is the job of the University to be forthcoming as to how students falling below that line can retain their awards.

The University must continue to maintain its lofty standards, keeping it among the elite schools in the region, but this decision makes the scholarship process more equitable.

[T]he manner in which scholarships previously were appealed was too subjective.

## Truville

Maureen Ferry /cartoonist



## Letters to the Editor

### Columnist's take on lack of hockey shows lack of attention to game

I'd like to comment on the article "No NHL yields new activities" by Ross Houston [May 5 issue of the Index].

Houston's inane sentiments on hockey do the sport injustice, along with jokes that seem forced and are otherwise unfunny even to people who do follow sports (and are completely lost on everybody else).

For starters, it's clear that Houston does not know very much about hockey. His line "...burly beasts sliding around on frozen water and getting in fights just for the fun of it" furthers the stereotype fostered by ignorant fans who don't know one-timers from netminders. For every "burly beast" in the NHL, there are at least four or five gifted superstars like Markus Naslund, Dany Heatley and Ilya Kovalchuk. The latter two comprise the superb offensive attack of the Atlanta Thrashers, but you wouldn't know that from Houston's remarks about the Thrashers, who are in fact a team well on their way to Stanley Cup contention.

The biggest problem, however, is Houston's call for hockey fans to support other Truman sports in the wake of the hockey lockout. While it was a nice gesture, he left a glaring omission. Is Houston aware that Truman has a hockey team? I'm glad to see that the Index gives out sports columns to writers more interested in taking naps than writing about hockey without so much as mentioning Truman hockey. If you ask me, Houston is the one that's been "living under a really big rock." I, as well as many other hockey fans, would appreciate it if Houston left the hockey talk to fans who actually know a thing or two about the game and are willing to give it the time it deserves rather than falling back on tired stereotypes and lackluster humor.

Nathan Rothwell  
Junior

### Reader falls short with claims of discrimination against males

When reading the Index's description over junior Nathan Bowyer's letter to the editor [April 28 issue of the Index], I initially wondered if this was some sort of joke. Upon further reading, I discovered that Bowyer seemed to be serious about the problem of discrimination against males in our society. I'm sorry that the writer is feeling so oppressed by the potential discrimination in our society.

I was especially interested in his claims that some men don't even want to get married because of the potential of losing their children and having to pay child support in a subsequent divorce. What? I'm most curious to see where Bowyer is getting his information.

I don't doubt that the majority of children are awarded to their mother in custody proceedings, but the intent of the judge is to place the children where their needs will best be met. Having to pay child support makes sense even if these fathers don't have primary custody. How would any single parent be able to fully support their children financially? And what sort of parent wouldn't want to pay this support to make their child's life more financially secure?

From my own experience, my father had primary custody of my siblings and I. In turn, my mother paid child support to my father. This ended up being the best situation for everyone, even if it isn't the norm.

Even though I've only focused on one portion of Bowyer's letter, the notion that men face this overwhelming

discrimination is biased and a bit of a slap in the face to those who have faced true adversity.

Jasmine Fry  
Alumna

### On bomb's anniversary, one must contemplate University name

In a commendable afternoon public session speech to last March's Women's History Conference, Dr. Dixon recognized laudably that the "test of her presidency" would be how far "reforming from inside the Center" her reigns sees the male administrator dominance unaccountably misrunning TSU checked!

In Index, Monitor publication summer absence, the old male guard have been using front pages of their organ, your student fee sillily subsidized Truman Today, to, again, feature what they call "an anniversary" of the terrible Cold War name change from Native American NMSU to Truman; forgetting, as they always do, how statistically, this was the least popular poll name at the time and how 100-plus students, rebel academics and myself mounted ferocious protest!

President Dixon, have you asked those behind the awful beanfest proposed in Truman Today what more appropriately they are going to do, and you, madam, vis-à-vis the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Truman's needless bombs? Even European Time magazine editions here in Paris are debating more responsibly; now we know how even more this wicked usage was designed by the nasty Harry. To "warn" the Soviets of their bomb developments, rather than just juicily incinerate Japanese civilians racially and Allied known POWs, as southerners and Republicans wanted in their barbarity!

In particular, Dixon and chums, how about financing a peace TSU delegation healingly to Hiroshima campus, a globe famous one, to offer our apologies for Harry S. in 1945 whom even FDR had not, as VP, till late, trusted with the bomb for fear of "Hicksville" war-minded's overuse of the radioactive "black rain."

Better still, a renaming commission of students for a good 21st century anti-sexist name like Afro-American French Missourian Josephine Baker, who pioneered modern dance, intelligent war, anti-fascist resistance, orphan and animal rights care and has had in the English language alone over three fine biographies in just the last decade alone in real non-incinerating human beings achievement! Meanwhile, Dixon, you need to make Truman Today accountable to your reforming centrism and known moderate Democratic party appearances, don't you, ma'am, in deeds, not mere fine phrases, fobbing students and we progressives off with platitudes?

Larry Iles  
Kirksville Resident

### Economic forum breeds larger question of labels in debate

The Missouri Statesman, published and edited by Jonathon Burns, invited Dr. Kenneth Chilton (associate professor of management, Lindenwood University) to "expose left-wing myths" on April 27 in Violette Hall 1010. Chilton titled his presentation "Prophets of Doom vs. the Dismal Scientists," and throughout he clearly argued that many environmentalists are essentially pessimistic doomsayers. The event's advertising indicated both the nature of the talk and the extended discussion that it provoked.

Both Chilton and Steve Smith (Truman State professor of mathematics) portrayed critics of purportedly 'free' market capitalism and governmental

deregulation as left-wing ideologues. Not that either bothered to articulate his own political affinities so as to promote dialogue about these assumptions. It seems to have escaped their attention that the American political climate, at least in terms of our stock mythologies from the '60s (e.g. widespread social activism, environmentalism, free love, Woodstock), has notably shifted to the right.

That said, as a critical student of philosophy and religion, I cannot assent to the arguments of any person who portrays himself as a 'dismal scientist' on the side of Reason and Truth, whether or not he or she has earned a Ph.D or J.D. Were they appropriately candid, professors Chilton and Smith would shed light on their own politics rather than tearing down the politics of others from a supposedly 'scientific' and 'rational' perspective. I will reveal my own - I do not trust in convenient rationalizations for the disparities between my material standard of living and that of the 'developing' world, and I do not think that we can index GDP and quality of life. But instead of being satisfied by labeling ourselves, I challenge us to converse across the barriers. Is deregulation of the economy a good idea? Are some environmentalists arrogant pessimists whose thinking we can discredit? What are the assumptions of our disciplines? Let's talk.

Shaine Griggs  
Senior

### Continued presence in Jefferson City was possible with SAM

It was nice to read in last year's Index that Truman students took the time out of their busy schedules to go to Jefferson City and speak with their elected officials about concerns regarding funding and the future of higher education in Missouri. It was also nice to read the editorial by Index staff pointing out the obvious - that in these tough budget times students in Missouri would benefit from a continuous presence in Jefferson City [April 28 issue of the Index].

Until recently, Truman students, along with students across the state, had a full-time presence in Jefferson City, lobbyists, an office, communication with students all over the state, access to research and resources and a grassroots student movement, all for one dollar. It was called the Student Association of Missouri (SAM), a new and powerful organization that had not yet reached its potential. The student government leaders at Truman and other campuses decided that it would be better to criticize and complain about SAM than to continue building it and participate in all it had to offer.

Times are hard and higher education will continue to be on the chopping block unless students organize, participate and put their money on the table. Every day your voice needs to be heard. Truman students a few years ago worked hard to ensure that their voices would be heard in Jefferson City, they organized and fought for themselves and for all other students. Your lack of participation is insulting to those who did so much work to ensure that not only that their voices were heard but that the voices of students who would come after them would be heard. Truman students wake up! \$1 dollar would go much further than one day at the Capitol.

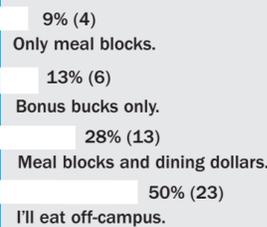
Bethany Ordaz  
Alumna  
Former President,  
Student Association of Missouri

## INDEX Web poll

What type of meal plan will you have next year?

### August 17 Results

as of midnight Tuesday



**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:** What is your take on the University's revamped scholarship renewal system?

vote online at [www.trumanindex.com](http://www.trumanindex.com)

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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.

## 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.