

New students should use wealth of resources

Dear Freshmen:
If you so much as care to reach this page, you certainly are taking full advantage of the services we are giving you.
Mark my words, most of us are rendering services to you – we have decided to punctuate our summer vacations with little things for you simply so we can help make your move from home to college a wee bit easier.



Prajwal Sharma

produce a paper just for you. It would greatly warm their hearts – and mine – if you would read it.

You don't have to read the columns, seriously. Most columnists just take an hour or two and type the columns from the comfort of their homes. Read the rest of the paper, please. It's all hard, hard work – all for you.

I know your first week is going to be a happy collage of parties, getting to know your roommates, skipping the Real World: Austin because of a party commitment and later regretting it and, of course, skipping the latter half of your Truman Week classes. It's all good, no doubt, but please do be thankful to all those people who make this experience possible – and people who have sacrificed a small part of their break again and again are made up of selfless stuff, the kind you need

“Those involved with the newspaper produce a paper just for you. It would greatly warm their hearts – and mine – if you would read it.”

to be appreciative of.

I did it last year, realized it was not worth the effort and gave up completely. It's a good thing others still try year after year.

Helping you move your bags up to your room does not pay that exhausted girl a fortune. What would certainly make her day would be a genuine smile and a big “thank you.”

And please read the newspaper – everyone at the office is super-excited about presenting this award-winning newspaper meant exclusively for you.

You can ignore the columns, though.

Take care.

Prajwal Sharma is a senior communication major from Gangtok, Sikkim.

No, we don't demand Mother Teresa-like reverence for our services – all we request is that you take advantage of them and be thankful that you have them.

Some services are easy to take advantage of and start right at the residence halls. Nothing says relief more than a dozen eager Santa's helpers willing to haul your luggage up the stairs.

Others are the kind of services you cannot see – like the ones the student advisers give you.

You clearly can see how they work hard for you, but they also reach school several days before you arrive, undergo some training and throw themselves headlong into helping you make your transition from home to school smoother.

Take another set of people, for example – the college media people. Those involved with the newspaper

Departing advice to freshmen: Relish your time at University

As my college journey is ending, yours is beginning. I will leave Truman in December 2005 after spending three and a half years here to earn my degree.

What have I learned?

What can I pass on to you, an incoming freshman?

I can't say for sure as everyone sees life through their own experiences, past and present, but I know how I have changed.



Katie Stuart

quickly found other people to live with. I could have left and gone back home to St. Louis just because we were making each other miserable. Then I met the girl across the hall and we were roommates for three years. I can guarantee that all of you were over-achievers in high school. And if that is what you want to be here, then go for it.

Just remember that life passes you by when you make yourself a slave to school.

I am determined to get good grades, but wouldn't trade occasional extended trips home for the world. There is the school of academics and the school of life. Find a healthy balance between both.

3. Try it. It won't kill you. I knew I was in trouble spring semester when I was the only non-history major in an upper-level history course I took as an elective. I could have let fear rule and dropped it, but I didn't. It was one of

“Having no friends here, staying connected to only your friends and family back home, is a fast way to get a one-way ticket out of Kirksville...”

the most interesting and challenging classes that I have taken here.

Are you shy?

Having no friends here, staying connected only to your friends and family back home, is a fast way to get a one-way ticket out of Kirksville at semester's end.

Introduce yourself to everyone on your floor and in your Truman Week class. Some you will stop talking to by Christmas, and some might just be your friends for life.

Truman has brought a lot of positive changes into my life. I am ready to move on, out into the real world, come December.

Relish these moments while you can – you will be in my place sooner than you can imagine.

Katie Stuart is a senior business administration major from Maryland Heights, Mo.

Success of bank robbers leaves feelings of regret

You might think you made a bunch of money this summer, but unless you can top \$68 million, I've got you beat.

Well, not me personally, but that's how much a few fortunate thieves took away from a Brazilian bank earlier this month.



Andrew Gant

it's not even considered a real crime anymore.

And with that in mind, I head to one of my local banking institutions to feel things out.

Remember, however, that my hometown is one of those specks with one stoplight and a Dollar General.

It's one of those places where the English teacher and the principal are both friends with your parents, so it doesn't matter if you get home first to sneak a detention slip out of the mailbox.

The kind of place you don't hear much about on the news until a resident wins the lottery or grows the world's largest turnip.

Or robs the local bank and gets away with it.

I think about all this as I stand at the teller window in the afternoon, glancing around at the spotless, unguarded lobby and plainly visible vault.

I used to work at one of these places, long enough to know that the tellers have alarm buttons underneath

“[The robbery] is yet another case of my being left out of the cash loop, missing out once again on the profitable opportunity of a lifetime.”

their counters and signals prepared for the cops on the off chance that an actual robbery ever actually occurs right in front of them.

Inside the vault, I know the safe deposit boxes are mostly just full of wills, birth certificates and baseball cards and the cash vault only holds a fraction of the kind of money stolen in Brazil.

I realize the cost of digging a tunnel for 100 meters underground probably far outweighs the payoff at a bank where there are more rolls of quarters than bundles of twenties.

But my deep desire to bust through the floor of that vault isn't just fueled by the prospect of having millions of dollars to waste on stuff I don't need.

It's about getting away with something so risky that only the best attempt it.

And having the guts to tell everyone you're going to do it.

Andrew Gant is a senior communication major from Montgomery County, Mo.

I can dig, I can run, I can divide large numbers, I can do everything I'd need to do as a professional thief. How do I get my name out there?

I write a column.

I can write this so longingly because bank robbery is one of those crimes most people don't mind so much, especially if it's the kind where you sneak in over the weekend unarmed. It's a respectable profession today, thanks to federal deposit insurance.

In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if

Around the Quad

This week's question:
“What was your favorite thing about being a freshman?”



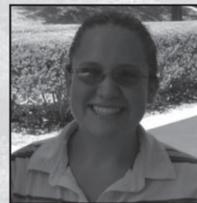
Chelsea Hokanson
sophomore

“I liked getting to know so many different types of people.”



Eric Dieckman
sophomore

“My favorite thing was the end-of-the-week rally during Freshman Week, where all the different halls come together for the hall cup championship.”



Amanda Hoylman
sophomore

“The whole new experience itself – I'm a really outgoing person, so I loved being able to challenge myself.”



Chris Martin
senior

“I liked the freedom aspect of being a freshman, being out on my own.”

Senior gives rules for Truman survival

Unless there's been a dramatic overhaul in the past four years, Truman Week can be pretty lame. I slept through most of the inane activities, and when we were forced to walk across the stage in a mock graduation ceremony. I seriously considered garrotting myself with my Truman Week shirt.

The dorm spirit songs, the name games, and team-building exercises tested the limits of my sanity. Now, as a senior, I can look back on my venture into freshman year and laugh. It's amazing what a few years of perspective and a couple thousand dollars in (electroshock) therapy can do.

Some of the information provided by the Truman Week organizers is helpful, but they still leave out many pieces of advice. Since I believe in a free exchange of ideas, I have generously decided to give the incoming class a crash course in surviving Truman. What follows is by no means condoned or even acknowledged by any official segment of the Truman administration, which only means it's true.

Cohabitation
If you're a smooth operator or have a penchant for venereal disease, then you're probably already aware that the cohabitation rule stopped being enforced a long time ago. So if you're eyeing that saucy belle or beau down your hall and plan to “accidentally” fall asleep in their room while watching a movie, don't fret too much. You might gain a reputation as the dorm's broken roulette wheel – everyone takes a spin and wins – but you won't face reparations from your student adviser.

Laundry
The average college student produces over two metric tons of dirty laundry a week, and the average mom is unwilling to drive four hours to campus just to do your laundry. Unless you shack with the housekeeper, don't expect dirty clothes to wash themselves.

Also, refrain from spending hard-earned quarters on the DDR machine in the SUB and save them for the washing machines instead. You may guffaw now, but don't come crying to me when it's 2 a.m. on a Sunday night and the only clean pair of underwear just happen to be eight sizes too small with pink ponies and rainbows and located in your roommate's dresser.

Class
Truman is a lot like the show “Cheers” except instead of being a situational comedy, it's a liberal arts college. And instead of taking place at a bar, it takes place in the middle of nowhere. Aside from those things, Truman is just like “Cheers” because everybody knows your name. It makes skipping



Joel Andersen

“...Truman is just like ‘Cheers’ because everybody knows your name. It makes skipping class and dodging exes a wee difficult.”

class and dodging exes a wee difficult. Most professors will remember who goes to class, and if attendance isn't a direct portion of your grade, they will factor in that two week sabbatical you took when you beg for an extension on your term paper. Do yourself a favor and go to class, if only for the brownie points.

Alcohol
Officially Truman is a dry campus. The administration can threaten students with everything from fines to Chinese water torture, and 15 minutes into the move in day, alcohol will mysteriously materialize in the backs of closets, wardrobes and hidden micro-fridges across campus.

It's a not a smart idea to keep alcohol in your dorm room, but it's not that hard to get away with. As with breaking any rule, discretion is the key. A bottle or two might be overlooked, but a bathtub full of gin and micro-brewery are apt to draw attention to themselves when they explode.

Sleep
Experts recommend eight hours of sleep a night. Count yourself lucky if you manage half of that. Sleep is highly overrated, and you'll have plenty of time to sleep when you're dead, which could be soon if your parents catch wind of your midterm grades and M.I.P. you received Truman Week.

There you have it, everything incoming freshmen need to know to survive college. I'd like to apologize to the Truman Week organizers because I can't say their activities were that bad. I exaggerated their uselessness, not because they weren't, but because I was sleeping during most of them. You have to make up for that missed sleep sometime.

Joel Andersen is a senior English major from Blue Springs, Mo.