

## OUR VIEW

## Dixon should be careful when cutting programs

University President Barbara Dixon announced widespread budget cuts in an e-mail to faculty and staff Tuesday and a press conference Wednesday (See story, Page 1). Dixon's proposals ranged from phasing out of the Child Development Center and subsequent elimination of four staff positions, to re-evaluating energy conservation and using an electronic catalog to offset operations costs.

Although we acknowledge Dixon's task of recapturing \$4 million is not an enviable one, we caution against complete eliminations without completely exploring all other options.

One section of Dixon's plan suggests potentially eliminating some athletic teams, but we think this would put Truman at a disadvantage when recruiting. Truman is a competitive school that is able to issue athletic scholarships, and eliminating this component of the athletic department would hinder its ability to continue the University standards of quality athletes and a quality athletic program. A lack of funding and the cutting of scholarships also could result in Truman becoming an NCAA Div. III school.

The Child Development Center is a program that will be phased out in May under Dixon's proposal. We understand the state budget cuts require drastic changes at the University. However, this drastic cut will eliminate in the next six months four staff positions and an education program for as many as 35 children each

semester. The phasing out of the CDC will put an end to one of the components of Truman's campus that makes the University unique. With other campus programs subsidies, including the Truman State University Press and the Sixteenth Century Journal being phased out as well, we are concerned that programs making our liberal arts University stand out might be left by the wayside.

Dixon has promised not to lay off faculty or staff unless it is absolutely necessary and has said reducing staff positions ideally will occur through the natural process of resignations and retirements. The University should take advantage of the planning it has done and use the upcoming years to strive to keep this promise.

Ultimately, the state is not increasing Truman's funding, and it does not seem that this will happen anywhere in the near future. And unfortunately, the required costs will not decrease. We understand budget cuts are necessary in the University, but it is important to note that higher education in general deserves more funding across the state.

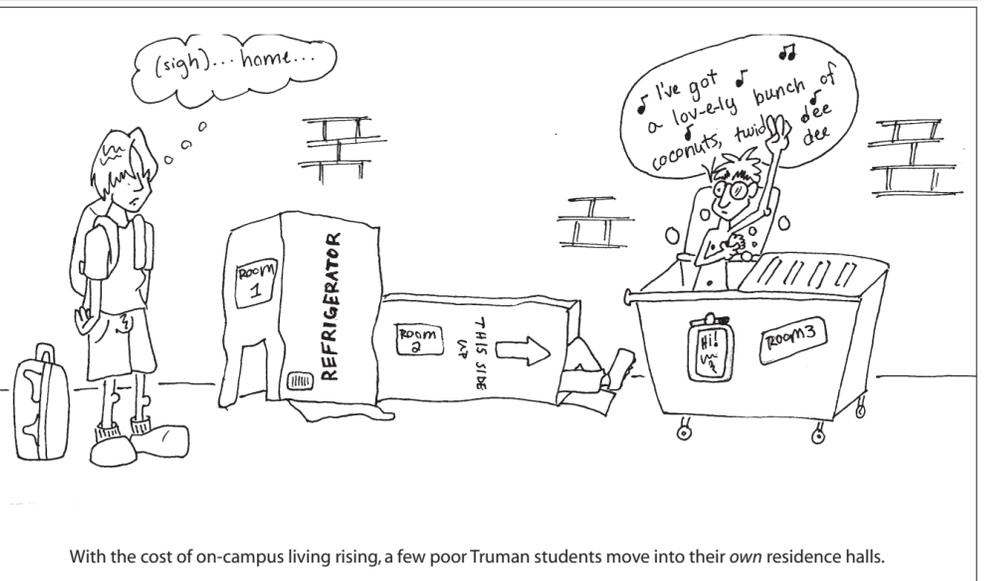
In the meantime, the University should strive to disclose any new information, such as increased cuts or new findings from planned academic and administrative evaluations, and keep in mind that Truman is full of programs that make it unique.

Let's keep it that way.

**In the meantime, the University should ... keep in mind that Truman is full of programs that make it unique.**

## Truville

Perrin Carrell/cartoonist



## Letters to the Editor

### State resources are too scarce to subsidize private higher education

Jeremy Loscheider's letter to the editor was right on track. The proposed bill is not good for Truman, and it is not good for higher education in this state.

Any diversion of scarce resources from the public colleges and universities to private colleges is not in the best interests of the citizens of Missouri.

Private colleges are "private" by definition and should remain private.

*Jack Magruder  
President Emeritus and  
Professor Emeritus of Chemistry*

### Veto of measure was a reflection of Kirtland's personal preferences

Rarely in my life have I felt great personal accomplishments sundered so quickly by deep pangs of disappointment. This past Tuesday's Senate meeting, which saw a turnout much greater than usual by members of the student body, passed a measure in support of repealing the Higher Education Act. The students came out in force to support it, but their voices were quickly silenced by the personal decision of the president.

Mark Kirtland explains his position by alluding to an essay by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, saying that it is the duty of citizens to "adhere to federal laws in order to create and continue a productive society." This seems to declare that all is well with the laws in our country and that we should all completely follow them.

I wholeheartedly disagree. It is our responsibility to stand up and cry out in protest those measures which seek to limit our personal freedoms.

Marijuana is a divisive issue among all citizens of this great country. The underlying deciding factor for most opinions on marijuana revolve around its controlled status while others have looked beyond the mandates of our government and decided for themselves that it is unfairly outlawed.

It is unfair, immoral and highly foolish for students to lose their federal aid because of a personal decision concerning their private lives.

The fact that the voice of the student body is silenced by the personal opinion of the president is an outrage. He accuses the senators who passed the measure of confusing their personal opinions with the will of the students, but the students showed up in support of the measure, so his hypocrisy is revealed. Listen to the students, Mark Kirtland! We will not be kept quiet by those in power who seek our silence!

*Christopher Peterson  
Junior*

### Kirtland's veto ignores vicious cycle of poor Americans' drug use

Visiting the last two Student Senate meetings has been instructive. Although some senators thanked those who attended, I wondered how genuine such pleasantries were. Perhaps Student Senate President Mark Kirtland's T-shirt, which asked, "Who cares?" broadcast the wrong message.

I think that Kirtland and the minority of the student government who originally voted against Josh Kappel's resolution are too quick to appeal to "the law" to establish their arguments.

I affirm Kirtland's claim that access to federal funding for higher education, which for many is simply access to higher

education, is a basic right and benefit. Yet this right and benefit is not fully recognized in this nation's theories or practices. Many times I have listened to others repeat a prejudice that explains, "But not everyone wants to go to a college or university, and even if they did, we still need plenty of service workers, industrial laborers ... " and so forth. The working class and perhaps more so, drug offenders, need those critical thinking skills which higher education can provide.

I support Kappel's resolution because it stands to extend this education to those who are this nation's most common drug offenders: the poor. It is often because people are poor that they resort to drug use and abuse. Excluded from federal funding under the drug provision, many will continue in this hopeless direction with little recourse.

The rule of law is often a tool of elite human beings which excludes "subordinates" from debate, discussion and democratic participation.

*Shaine Griggs  
Senior*

### Presidential veto is embarrassing to students Kirtland represents

How sad is it that no one should be surprised that Student Senate president Mark Kirtland vetoed the measure to support repeal of archaic federal student aid laws. As a Truman student who has been arrested and tried for illegal possession of marijuana, it seems I am one of many in Kirksville who Kirtland does not think can help "create and continue a productive society." And if Kirtland doesn't think an official appeal from Truman's governing student body is an "appropriate means of communication," I certainly don't know what is. I got high, I paid the price, and Kirtland doesn't seem to think that's enough. I am a white, middle-class college student with attorneys as parents, so I still get my student aid. But does Kirtland think only those of us privileged enough to dupe the courts can still be productive students and members of "this great society"? Just because a student made the mistake of wanting to get high at a CAKE concert does not mean she doesn't deserve the same educational opportunities as well-behaved folk like our Student Senate president. Education can be a silver bullet, but only if we're not afraid to give EVERYONE the chance to better themselves. Kirtland's veto is an embarrassment to the students he is supposed to represent, and he should be ashamed of himself. All due applause and thanks to Josh Kappel and his colleagues.

*Corey Owens  
Senior*

### University concertgoers should be more considerate at performances

Since I am no longer an undergraduate music major, I largely am retired from playing in Truman's performance ensembles and thus have more time to attend concerts. While attending these, I have discovered what I consider to be a disturbing trend: poor audience behavior.

I'm not sure why, but people on this campus never seem to arrive anywhere on time. There was an orchestra concert in the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall on Dec. 3. I saw at least 25 people arrive late to a concert which started a few minutes late itself, and it seems that people who

arrive late are uncertain about what they should do. If you went to a movie late, it's perfectly acceptable (although annoying to the other patrons) to walk in late. You quickly find your seat, and the majority of the audience does not notice due to the dark theatre.

A concert is a different situation, and students do not seem to realize this. Walking in and finding one's seat during the middle of a piece is extremely rude. For those who are unsure when they should enter, a safe rule is that you should wait until the audience applauds (which generally happens at the end of a piece). At an orchestra concert, in particular, the pieces tend to be longer. The first piece on the concert Saturday was about 30 minutes, and the second (and final) piece was about 40 minutes. If you want a seat to an orchestra concert, it is wise to arrive before the scheduled starting time. If you cannot help but arrive late, you should stand outside the door, waiting for applause.

Intruding into the concert experience is rude and unnecessary. Since this is a liberal arts institution, hopefully we can all learn a little concert etiquette.

*Alex Manners  
Graduate Student*

### Fellow alumnus' charges ignore anti-American rhetoric of Iles

Bob, how dare you call me shameful when Larry Iles writes the kind of insults as he did in his last letter "Query to Sorbonne 500-level Truman conservatives, especially, gents, your proud killer U.S. ROTC instructors, khakiing the Quad!"

As a former Army officer, this kind of derogatory attack on such honorable people, especially when we're at war, is disgusting in every way imaginable!

It takes a big man to call me shameful when you don't know what or who the hell you're defending. You think this is all a big game, and that's the scariest part of all. Wake up, and grow up!

*Rick Essex  
Alumnus*

### Footpath through Quad represents collective unity of student body

I am writing in response to Jeff Gall's letter about the "scar" across the Quad. I do not think the footpath that extends from the Student Health Center to Baldwin Hall represents the collective laziness of the student body. Like Gall, we "love walking across the lovely Quad." In order for the footpath to become so clearly defined, it took thousands of students silently agreeing on their favorite path. I would wager that it would be difficult to get the student body to agree so strongly on anything else. I like the "scar." I think it represents a unity of the student body. It does not make the Quad any less picturesque, it demonstrates the power of the joint student population.

Also in defense of the footpath, it runs down the stairs of the Kirk Memorial, which are built ending on the grass of the Quad. Did they not expect people to walk on the grass when they built these stairs?

Or perhaps we are simply demonstration our efficiency and superior math skills. Didn't our geometry teachers tell us that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line?

*Erin Collins  
Freshman*

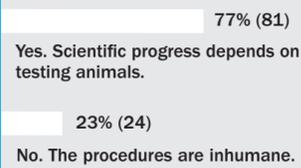
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### Web poll

Do you support the animal testing that takes place at A.T. Still University of Health Sciences?

### Dec. 6 Results

as of midnight Tuesday



**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:** Should students convicted of drug offenses receive federal funding for higher education?

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

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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

- The infographic information on Page 1 of the Dec. 1 issue of the Index was transposed. The first offense for sale of illegal drugs is a two-year financial aid penalty. A second offense leads to a penalty for an indefinite period of time.
- Becky Hadley's name was misspelled on Page 2 of the Dec. 1 issue of the Index.
- The Kohlenberg Lyceum event was reported incorrectly as Dec. 7 on Page 14 of the Dec. 1 issue of the Index. The event took place Dec. 6.

## 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.