

OUR VIEW

New hall likely will not open anywhere near full

As of Wednesday evening, about 120 of the roughly 400 spots in the University's new exclusively upperclassman residence hall had not been filled.

Registration for the residence hall, temporarily named the Suites at 215 W. Normal, has been wrought with several problems, and it is not clear that the issues can be traced to any one place.

An e-mail notification was sent to all on-campus residents the Friday before Midterm Break in the fall. It should go without saying that the timing of this was ill-advised. We suggest Residence Life send out that notice at a much more convenient time for students, such as any time when they are not about to leave campus for a week.

Residence Life instituted new all-online housing registration, moving it from a traditional person-to-person housing fair in the Student Union Building. With registration beginning at 7 a.m., students won't have to worry about a conflict with classes. Andrea O'Brien, director of Residence Life, said feedback from students afterward was positive with regard to the change. So for this Residence Life deserves applause.

But when registering for classes online, students are able to add or drop classes, and in extraneous cases, students are able to obtain yellow cards from the division offices. When it comes to housing, however, students rarely will be able to rescind their signature on a lease.

Although we understand that online housing registration likely will cut down Residence Life's man-hours, we strongly caution them to realize the mess that can

be caused if even the slightest computer or server problem affects the process.

Given that room and board costs are more than \$600 per semester more than living in other residence halls, and given that the vast majority of students likely have signed off-campus leases at this point, we cannot envision any scenario in which even a majority of the 120 spots is filled. We hope this prediction is wrong, but Midterm Break begins tomorrow. Three-hundred students on the initial "approved" list compiled by the Office of Residence Life either have not yet registered or already

have signed leases elsewhere. Residence Life has no way of knowing the status of these students.

O'Brien said she thought students would be reluctant to move into the new hall because very little was known about it. Given this seemingly obvious premise, we believe the Board of Governors could have set the price at a more reasonable level.

About \$1,300 extra per year is an enormous amount of money for students to spend, and this sum is intimidating for those students who have to foot at least some of their college bill. Thirteen-hundred dollars is equal to more than a month's work for the vast majority of college students.

Again, we wish to point out that the blame for the empty residence hall doesn't necessarily fall on any one party. We hope that this situation is rectified by this time next year, however.

“Again, we wish to point out that the blame for the empty residence hall doesn't necessarily fall on any one party.”

Truville

Perrin Carrell/cartoonist



Letters to the Editor

Becker's inclusion in book is a mark of Horowitz's sloppiness

As a Truman alum and a faculty development professional at another university, I find myself concerned about hearing a Truman professor has made the list in Horowitz's book about the "most dangerous academics" in America [March 2 issue of the Index]. By his own admission, Horowitz included Dr. Becker in the book without clear evidence and careful research, a mark of intellectual sloppiness that itself makes this attack on higher education both ironic and baseless.

At my own university, Ball State University, a peace and conflict studies professor was added to Horowitz's list in part because of one student's complaints (to Horowitz, not the university) of a bias against the war in Iraq. The professor is legally prohibited from discussing the complaint and its context because of student privacy rights, but that didn't stop Horowitz from condemning this fine teacher without the facts.

I agree that professors do have an obligation to behave responsibly in the classroom by promoting multiple perspectives and not using their faculty positions as bully pulpits. But everyone in higher education must fight against people like Horowitz who condemn professors without evidence and who seek legal limitations on faculty rights to academic freedom in the name of fairness for all. We should work together to expand the rich dialogue of ideas in the classroom, not impose Horowitz's unsupported views of what should happen in those classes.

impact an employer's bottom line.

Part of your undergraduate study provides you with skills for gainful employment. Only part. The rest should empower you to live your citizenship. Citizens should live with integrity, true to their purpose, engaged in what ignites a passion within them.

When you look at your future, don't ask whether the world needs another lawyer or businessperson. Ask what makes you truly alive, because the world needs people who are truly alive. Use these four years to find it, and never lose sight of it.

That said, your calling may mean you look beyond a Career Fair, the Fortune 500, or even the edges of the official work force. Teach English in Russia. Start a ministry and live off donations. It is equally noble to work full time to support a family as to wait tables part time to support yourself but devote the rest of energies to a cause close to your heart. Most importantly, do what allows you to be self-sufficient while living with the integrity of being true to what you wish to accomplish. Be flexible in the means, steadfast in the goal.

Dr. Becker, I may disagree with your opinion, but I defend vigorously your right to say it, your responsibility to say it honestly and to levy the full power of your mental faculties upon it. And I have no high esteem for Horowitz's book. It is more dangerous to have a nation of yes-men and yes-women following the coattails of public opinion and boardroom convention. What we need is a vigorous, well-reasoned, and passionate dissent for democracy to function.

of three people who were my own trainers as a history radical writer, only one was a U.K. socialist Labour MP/MEP, whilst the other two, one of whom still is in U.K. parliament, were more openly conservative liberals or even Thatcher's former U.S. speechwriter here on trips to her U.S. dotting former colonists, supposedly! So diversity is vital.

But even if thereby, I go way beyond what Becker and his radicals dare hope for in real socialism, I do still say in a campus paper we should all now, more defensively, 2006 be defending liberal arts' right to uncensored, unmuzzled U.S. professors' hirings and to their classroom retentions from Horowitz's thinly disguised naming books! One of the worst crimes, indeed, about that book is that it serves up, as if "new knowledge", attacks on "feminist" and "socialist" professorial couples, as if it's all previously unknown to parents!

Yet the tragedy unfolding here, inside the States, may be that defenses against such censorious right-wingers at a time of damaging cuts in finances may be coming far too late, unless you print such letters now! In which case we will all, too tardily, have but to lament with former World War II U-boat pastor and anti-Hitlerian German Lutheran Rev. Niemoeller: "When they came for the communists, the gays, etc., I did nothing because I wasn't those. When they then came for me, no one also did anything because they weren't me, or were they!?"

*Larry Iles
Kirksville Resident*

Voters should urge representatives to support midwifery legislation

Many Missourians are not aware that midwifery is illegal in Missouri. Unfortunately, women can choose to end a pregnancy and take the life of their child legally through abortion, but can't choose how they wish to birth their babies. Women the world over have benefited from being allowed to pursue this natural birthing experience. Statistically, midwifery is a superior and safer alternative for giving birth than the "traditional" medical model. Women who birth with an experienced midwife have lower caesarean rates, less perineum damage (i.e. episiotomies, tearing, etc.), higher infant Apgar scores, successful breastfeeding, lower incidents of postpartum depression and strengthened mother-infant bonding, when compared to national averages for "traditional" births. Women who have given birth with a midwife report feeling empowered!

In addition, midwives typically take longer at prenatal appointments, focusing on developing trust with the women they serve and educating about the role good nutrition plays in preventing pregnancy-related complications. Many women in Missouri have chosen to birth with a midwife in secret because of all the positive benefits. Others have chosen to birth unassisted at home (without a qualified midwife in attendance) in order to have the birth experience they desire without breaking the law. It truly is a crime that women are forced to make such desperate and difficult decisions regarding giving birth. Midwifery should be legal in Missouri, as it is in most states. This is a course of action that truly supports women's reproductive rights. How can anyone claiming to be pro-women deny us this choice?

Our state legislature is currently considering pro-midwifery legislation. For the sake of all Missouri women, encourage your senators to vote yes on this bill, which allows qualified, experienced midwives to assist women giving birth, legally!

*Julie Valkenaar
Kirksville Resident*

*Greg Siering
Alumnus*

*Jeremy Loscheider
Alumnus*

Real danger is Horowitz's lack of research behind "The Professors"

I would like to publicly congratulate my colleague, Dr. Marc Becker, on his inclusion among David Horowitz's "dangerous" academics [March 2 issue of the Index]. As the Index article demonstrates, Dr. Becker's danger to society consists of teaching critical thinking, a skill that's essential to honest and open debate in a democratic and free society. Horowitz amply demonstrates he has not mastered the basics of either critical thinking or the fundamentals of research. He fails to adequately verify his claims about Dr. Becker. Even more damaging, he apparently cannot fathom that an academic can separate personal opinions and commitments from his or her responsibilities as an educator. It is Horowitz who ends up looking dangerous with his shoddy research.

*Marijke Breuning
Associate Professor of Political Science*

Not all undergraduates should be turned into knowledge workers

I'd like to relate the opinions by Andrew Gant and Kelly Reed in the March 2 issue of the Index. Mr. Gant decried the opposition to political opinions in the classroom. Ms. Reed decried the lack of opportunities for non-business majors at the career fair.

Thank you both for pointing out the unfortunate but prevalent mindset that higher education should turn students into knowledge workers. The knowledge worker is a noble calling, but it is a misuse of human resource to cast every student in its mold. This mindset is behind the growth of for-profit education (University of Phoenix), and the political pressure on public institutions to conform to this "efficient" model.

It biases recruiters to look for a business major rather than a candidate who uses critically their multifaceted talents. It chases political discussion out of the classroom because it poses dissent and does not

INDEX Web poll

If issues don't pertain to their area of expertise, should professors express political views in class?

March 7 Results

as of midnight Tuesday

45% (55)

Yes. Doing so encourages the free exchange of ideas, a valuable component of the college experience.

55% (67)

No. Professors should show professional restraint, and they weren't hired to promote their own political views.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

vote online at
www.trumanindex.com

Will the threat of stalking convince you to do away with your MySpace.com account or other Internet profiles?

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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.

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