

OUR VIEW

Potential state cuts could pinch already thin budget

Colleges and universities statewide have been scrambling recently to determine how to absorb potential budget cuts from the state of Missouri.

E-mailing all the public university presidents, Greg Fitch, commissioner of higher education, asked how public institutions could absorb federal funding reductions of 10 to 12 percent, if the need arose. Fitch's e-mail said the state currently faces a projected budget shortfall despite reports of sufficient revenues. University President Barbara Dixon said she thinks Blunt's proposed 2007 budget might include cuts to higher education.

We choose to reserve judgment on the governor's intentions until he formally introduces his 2007 budget. Blunt has made it clear that he wishes to trim wastefulness statewide, beginning with mandatory budget cuts to nearly all state agencies in the 2006 budget. We do, however, encourage readers to peruse the Index archives, specifically the Feb. 3, 2005 issue, in which the governor and his spokesman told the Index they were committed to sustaining higher-education funding.

On Page 1 of that issue, Blunt spokesman Paul Sloca said, "The governor said he will not cut education, and he's committed to that." In another story on the same page, Blunt was quoted during an appearance in the Student Union Building, outlining the importance of level funding during the 2006 fiscal year for state higher-education institutions.

We realize these potential cuts are

happening in a period of huge fiscal shortfalls – state officials are projecting up to \$400 million in lost state revenues. This shortfall comes from federal cuts and last year's passage of Amendment 3, which earmarked certain tax dollars specifically for highway improvements, diverting that money from the general fund. But in 2002, state universities received a 12 percent cut in funding, which led to an 11 percent tuition increase at Truman and a \$100 per-student surcharge. David Rector, director of institutional planning and budgets, cited the 2002 cuts as an example of what could happen again.

Large increases in tuition defeat the purpose of students staying in state for cheaper rates. The state needs to look at the long-term repercussions such cuts could have on attracting students to Missouri universities.

This is the second time in three years the state has asked University officials to prepare for a major cut. Although this year state institutions received level funding, universities were forced to trim unnecessary expenditures to adjust for inflation. If the state cuts 10 to 12 percent of higher-education funding, the universities will be forced to make more drastic changes to the core of their schools, such as cutting faculty positions or increasing tuition. Universities regularly undertake self-reviews, in which they often trim programs they believe to be unfruitful, so these potential purges will run deep.

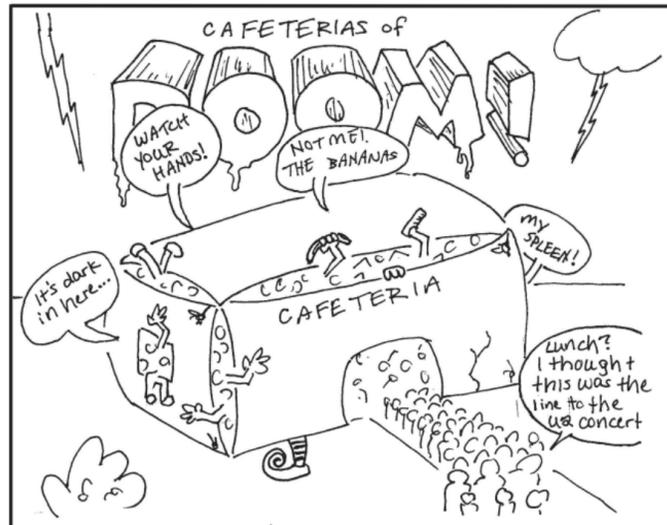
Blunt and the elected legislators must realize there isn't much left to cut.

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Truville

Perrin Carrell/cartoonist

IN THE FUTURE...
Missouri Hall has been demolished, the new dormitory built and the students of Truman State, trying desperately to sustain themselves, have stampeded to the two remaining cafeterias and have found themselves in a dire situation. The over-crowded cafeterias have become...



Letters to the Editor

Historical society has been proved correct by U.S. failures in Iraq

Far be it from mere me, a humble visiting history Paris University researcher, if Kirksville resident, alumnus-alleged a, too, communist, to interfere with the A-bomb curricula vitae Truman unquestionable proprieties, but come next month, finals Truman will beckon, as fast as well as much-yearned for escape from graduates, at last from Truman fees.

Accordingly, here in Europe with our socialistic sense in depth of true equity and naive belief that "liberal arts" query intelligence sense should apply for your "betters" amongst conservative Truman simplistic faculty in such places as business and teacher education, I have some end-semester queries for you to Leveler-pose, Index letters, for such overpaid souls, from yourselves!

One nonconservative, thank the goddess teachers like indeed the occasional excellent Truman historian, have long tried to, vainly, point out that not only does most of the world not approve ongoingly of Bush Jr.'s Iraq misoccupation, but so, too, do over 100 professional members of that normally rather traditional U.S. organization, The Organization of American Historians. They placed their patriotic names against this calamity the very year it was begun as silly, as "unevolutionary" and, likely, to unleash the very terror and feeling of keep-women-in-their-subordinate-places, Dr. Rice et al. profess in "war, war" on TV to born-again fear!

Query to Sorbonne 500-level Truman conservatives, especially, gents, your proud killer U.S. ROTC instructors, khakkiing the Quad!

With now over 2,024 U.S. soldiers dead and, yes, four times that injured in Iraq and a Sunni-scared repressed women Iraqi-educated majority at the hands inhumanely of victorious coercive Iranian-sympathetic Shias, hasn't these home-based group prognosis of U.S. historians been proved correct?

Answers please, care of Index student reporters, letters and columnists: In case proved for "withdrawal," incomplete, Truman grade toward all U.S. right-winger academics and administrators alike! For your failure to ask basic intelligence queries in your abysmal first place in evidently Ph.D. lobotomies state! Hail Bush Two, U.S. brain-dead empire decadent! Hail, losers!

Larry Iles
Kirksville Resident

Because Index published resident, alumnus didn't return to Truman

I wrote a letter of protest for all the silly letters you've published from Larry Iles. You then allowed him to ramble on with another response.

Just wanted to let you know I kept my word. Because you did that, I didn't attend my 20th reunion, and Kirksville lost my money. The more of his foolishness you print, the more money you will continue to cost Kirksville due to the alumni offended by his remarks attacking the school, the United States, etc.

Rick Essex
Alumnus

Inclusion of anti-abortion inset was irresponsible, reprehensible

I'm writing concerning the inset advertisement of your first issue in November. It was a lengthy anti-abortion tirade that bordered on propaganda. I find it morally reprehensible for a newspaper to distrib-

ute such a one-sided view of a limitlessly complex debate. It is just plain irresponsible to present issues at such a static perspective. It's the duty of a newspaper with any journalistic integrity to keep the reader aware of every aspect of a topic.

Before you brush my letter off, I am fully aware that the aforementioned inset was not written or published by the Index staff. But written rather by The Human Life Alliance, a religious group that has published antiabortion and abstinence materials aimed at young people, also anti-assisted suicide leaflets to distribute at your grandma's old folks' home. But just because you didn't write doesn't mean you aren't accountable for releasing such an inflammatory publication. The articles inside Tired Yet? were laced with so many half truths, ad hominem attacks and assumptions of moral superiority, it is shameful that you would put it in with real news. The National Life Alliance even suggests that Planned Parenthood is somehow masterminding genocide of African-Americans. I can't even find words to express the repugnance of this implication. Even if you disagree with abortion, you can't deny that Planned Parenthood has been doing a service to young people all over America (especially urban areas) by providing contraceptives and sexual education when groups like the NLA would rather bury their heads in the sand and make believe that chastity pledges actually work.

But still you probably contend that just because you released it doesn't mean your periodical shares any views with Tired Yet? it was just an advertisement. Do you really think that is an excuse? Do you think publishing such capricious and seditious information all for the name of making some money casts your paper in decent light? Well, it doesn't. All it does is show your paper for what it really is, another tired paper more concerned with filling ad space than presenting full stories and educated opinions to its readers. I really thought a journalist had to be in the real world for a few years to reach that level of jadedness. It's just as underhanded to hide behind said advertisement to push your agenda instead of owning up to your own convictions and proclaiming them in a public setting. But your paper would rather throw out a deceptive report by some puritanical group, and when your readers call your paper out for its stance you simply deny culpability and stick with your "just an advertisement" song and dance. So come on, Index, say it if you mean it.

Adam Buran
Sophomore

Christian Science church imposes inhumane dogma on the innocent

It has come to a point where our government is so worried about impeding on our basic rights that legal measures now protect the inhumanity evident in America. I am in fact talking about the Freedom of Religion, the meaning of which in the Bill of Rights has been stretched within no visible bounds. Why else would it be justifiable to kill our children by testimonies of freedom of religious practice if it was not defended by our constitution?

The Christian Scientist religion was founded in 1879 by Mary Baker Eddy, when The First Church of Christ, Scientist, was constructed. Her book, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," which brought popularity to the religion, states as one of the main fundamental beliefs of

the sect that, "a drug has no efficacy of its own, but borrows its power from human faith and belief. The drug does nothing, because it has no intelligence" ("Science and Health" 12). Eddy and her followers uphold that illness does not exist and is merely an illusion, and since healing powers are possessed only via God, medicinal remedies are considered to be sinful and inefficient. This seems to be a declarative validation for murder which is bafflingly protected by the expansion of our First Amendment Rights. My friend, a licensed emergency medical technician, had the unfortunate but awakening experience by witnessing the atrocity of Christian Scientist ideologies first hand.

An 8-year-old girl was struck by a car in west St. Louis County, and upon an emergency phone call by a neighbor, the paramedics arrived and concluded the girl had ruptured both pelvic arteries. The paramedics were then denied by her Christian Scientist parents to engage in any life-sustaining treatments and were dismissed to the sound of the girl's agonized and tortured screams for help. She died from blood loss within an hour. How is it that someone is allowed to die for someone else's sophistry in America? It is one thing to put your own life at risk for personal ideologies, but it is quite another to shackle another human, a defenseless one at that, with the same incredulous burden. The scene I imagine haunts my thoughts, a desperate girl passionately proclaiming her will to live through searing pain, her final moments watching "help" walk away while her most trusted relations turn their backs in a much more appalling manner. The girl could have had an outstanding chance for survival if she had been pumped full of fluids and quickly received in the O.R. for emergency surgery to suture her arteries. Instead she was forced to die for her parent's personal and delusional prerogatives.

It would be unforgivably undemocratic to ban the religion of Christian Science if this is the spiritual path of destruction some wish to follow in this country, despite their unfounded and ludicrous denial of illnesses. It is outrageous, however, that the government is allowing children to become uncontrollable victims of a guardian's religious ignorance and a church's apathy towards death. A person may lack the privilege to drive till 16, the right to smoke at 18 and the right to consume alcohol till 21, but everyone should have the limitless right to live in this country. Then the question becomes to what extent of control should the government have in the lives of people's children?

The solution is as simple as breathing: Life should not be at the discretion of any other human being but oneself. Law requires a parent must give their child an education through high school level. Is arithmetic then going to be considered priority over human life when a parent has the option of using their children as religious sacrifices? If a child grows up and decides to refuse medical treatment as a result of their religion, than fine. But it is simply unconstitutional to impose these decisions on the innocent who haven't lived long enough to yet know what spiritual path they wish to take. If polygamy is banned because it violates the sanctity of marriage, than why are Christian Scientist beliefs inflicted upon children lawfully when it violates the sanctity of life?

Jenna Conway
Freshman

INDEX Web poll

Does the University's academic structure need reorganization?

Nov. 15 Results

as of midnight Tuesday

24% (29)

Yes. President Dixon's vision will bring Truman into the 21st century.

76% (90)

No. Dixon's plans offer minimal progress.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

vote online at
www.trumanindex.com

Do you turn your cell phone off during class?

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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

- Sophomore Kelly Albright was misidentified as a freshman on Page 9 of the Nov. 10 issue of the Index.

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.