President Bush’s nomination of federal appeals court judge Samuel Alito Jr. to be the nation’s sixth Supreme Court justice underscores the importance of our system of checks and balances. In this system, each branch of government—Congress, the president and the courts—has the ability to curtail the encroachment of power by the other branches. As a citizen of this nation, we have the opportunity to influence the outcome of this nomination process. Even before Senator John F. Kerry of Massachusetts introduced his resolution on the nomination, the Senate Judiciary Committee had already met and reviewed the nomination. The purpose of this committee is to determine whether the nominee is qualified to fill the seat. It’s up to us to ensure that the committee is informed on the issues surrounding Alito’s nomination.

It is unfortunate that Alito’s nomination will become a glorified tug of war on Capitol Hill, an attempt for partisan bickering and examine whether his ideological bases are sufficient to vote him into the Supreme Court. In hopes that what Truman students receive will be 100%, we encourage professors to incorporate Alito’s nomination into class discussions but should encourage students to base their decision solely on their personal views on the matter. We, as a nation, must determine if the nomination can result in a fair process.

### 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, Room 230. The Index is a student publication and opinions expressed are those of the editors. The Index is the official student newspaper of Truman State University. The Index is published once per week, except holidays. Letters to the Editor may be submitted by regular mail, e-mail (index@truman.edu) or in person to the Student Union, Room 230. The Index reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Letters must be signed and will appear under the author’s name. The Index will run no more than two letters per week from the same writer.

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