

OUR VIEW

New exit exam doesn't improve upon the old

For students who just aren't ready to head out into the working world, graduate school offers us another door to choose from. Of course, one of the keys to open that door is the Graduate Record Examination, commonly known as the GRE.

Until recently, Truman required students enrolled in classics, communication, communication disorders, English, exercise science, philosophy and religion, Russian and theater majors to take the GRE as their university exit exam. For those who plan to attend graduate school, the University offered a great service by requiring and paying for the test.

But that's all about to change (See TESTS, Page 1). Starting in spring 2007, students will take the Collegiate Learning Assessment as their exit exam instead of the GRE. Nancy Asher, coordinator of testing and reporting at the Office of Assessment and Testing, said the GRE is becoming more problematic for the University. However, the CLA doesn't exactly solve the GRE's problems.

Asher said one of the problems with the GRE is that it's changing from a computer-based test to an Internet-based test, limiting the number of days students can take the test. However, the CLA isn't exactly more convenient for students.

The CLA is given only during the spring semester. Although the GRE will now be administered on only 22 days, at least those days are spread throughout the year, so students are able to choose exactly when they would like to take the test. Some seniors, for example, would probably like to take the test early in the year to minimize the potential stress that accompanies the spring semester. The CLA doesn't allow them to do this.

Asher continued to say that with all of the students at Truman required to take the exit exam, "There would have been no physical way possible to test them all" using the new GRE format.

Next semester, 357 students are scheduled to take the examination. Divide that number by the 22 testing days, and a figure results that is anything but overwhelming — 16 students per examination day.

But the number of students isn't the only "problem" with the GRE. Asher said the GRE doesn't really measure Truman's curriculum. The CLA supposedly does, however, by requiring them "to either write two essays in response to prompts asking [them] to construct an argument and to respond to an argument or write one long essay in response to a series of questions concerning a 'real life' problem."

So Truman's curriculum can be reflected in one or two essays?

The GRE's hefty price is another problem, so the CLA will save the University money. Or will it?

Simply put, Dave Rector, executive director of institutional research and budgets, said he doesn't know how much the CLA costs. Yet, he said one of the reasons we're switching tests is to aid in budget cuts. If we don't know the exact price of the CLA, how are we supposed to know if we're saving money?

We understand that budgets cuts are a necessity for almost any university at some point. However, the University needs to more fully explain and advertise their reasoning behind this decision. Only after we learn all of the facts will we be able to form a more accurate judgment about the future of the exit exam.



Letters to the Editor

Kirkville citizen calls upon others to replace Rep. Bob Behnen

Naturally, as community liaison officer for local Amnesty International, I am delighted! That TSU Funds Allotment Council is supporting, so generously, in its sponsorship ourselves, and Catholic Students Newman Center, in the imminent visit Sept. 14 of a globally renowned Texan nun as part of our collective campaigns against the iniquitous Death Penalty retention in this and other states of the Union. This indeed very fine author-ess was a guest on BBC Hardtalk TV earlier last academic year. And, as ever, she roused even the prissiest snob interviewer by her earthy prose, and her possession of the cool, if harrowing fact, born out of a lifetime of "witnessing" these useless, judicial government murders. I couldn't: could you? Could you, really?

But whilst everyone of any humanitarian sense should, manifestly, go and hear what Sister Helen has therefore learnedly had to say, there is, also, as I and my Amnesty International comrades are the first to warningly counsel. A grave danger that such national events can serve to blind us all to non-partisanly what we can, obviantly, do also upcomingly, do locally. To stay these ghastly doings in our bloodthirsty name up in Jefferson City executionarily. And, I don't either, just mean the occasional photos the Index has loyally itself to the abolitionist cause shown of our young members doing in Kirkville candlelight Tower Bell 'vigils.' Often, in vain, to get Missouri governors, of both big old-line retributive U.S. political parties, to call a DNA and other moratorium to this barbaric state Missouri murder practice we share with both the feudal Sandis and the Communist Chinese despotic regimes. 'Moratoriums' even conservative hard-line former Illinois, next-door state governors have, rightly, enacted in wholesale "stays" of the injections lethally of deadly hard drugs, so insultingly and degradingly in all our supposedly "civilized" names.

No, I refer to a public pledge I want to ask, in your columns, as a local radical resident to both the female candidates. To their replace, efforts on moving-on local stehouse in Jeff City Bob Behnen, a man whom I personally diverge from politically on nearly every major question elsewhere of the day. But who with me and downstate authorities I respect, like Columbia's Fellowship of Reconciliation leader, Stack, has earned our respect. By his fierce detestation inside the legislature of this totally unjustified death state sentencing policies effects. Indeed, as 'conservative' Behnen has often argued, some U.S. 'liberals' like sex-mad former President Bill Clinton, can be worst on this issue. I've never forgotten the sheer horror in my native England UK Channel 4 and BBC 2, our foremost non-satellite TV stations, as they reported Clinton's 'deliberate

state murder' of an Arkansas brain-damaged retard murderer. When that state's governor; just to look presidential candidate, so-called white liberal "tough."

So given we are set to lower house, at least, lose Bob for the abolitionist cause, can next letters or opinions Index issue both the rival party, yes female candidates tell us, and voters up here especially, will they pledge non-partisanly to carry on Behnen's commendable voter education work? That death by state does not alter, at all, crime rates "difference"-wise, which is why the federal Supreme Courts were well on the USA statistical way to abolishing it. In even this harsh-minded country, by the early mid-1970s, when the hard Right started its bizarre but well-moneyed recovery in scare radical-scapegoating tactics. Once it lost the demonishable-lost Vietnam War to outside, then, enemy scapegoat.

Come on Democrat nurse, Rebecca McClanahan and Farmer Republican, S. Summers, not only do we hope to see your supporters at the Sister Helen meetings. As we did, once, for her acclaimed Hollywood movie themes when it played local cinema and campus, as it did. But for two candidates who both claim "Christian family value" backgrounds we need to read accountably, in the next Index, that you both want "an end totally." To the vengeful Pagan state murder policy that has made, alas, Missouri one of the top such 'murdersville' state six in the last half decade, discreditworthlessly alone.

Larry Iles
Kirkville Resident

Matthews fails to look at freedom of expression in a logical light

As an NMSU alumni I was amazed to read the letter from Chris Matthews regarding free speech and "threats" of legal action against Truman (Aug. 31 issue of the Index).

It seems that Mr. Matthews believes in total free speech (expression). When one joins any organization they voluntarily agree to conduct themselves according to the guidelines set forth by that organization. Nobody made Mr. Matthews attend Truman — it was his choice. By accepting admission you accept the responsibility that comes with it.

Additionally, no person has unfettered rights. My rights end where another's begin. As Mr. Matthews stated, he may want to wear a shirt with derogatory wording on it. That is his right; I will then have the right to my low opinion of Mr. Matthews.

The problem is where you display this wording. I would think it inappropriate (and offensive, thus violating others' rights) to wear it in a church or school where small children are present.

If Mr. Matthews elects to carry his protests even further, he could diagram the wording he so desperately wants to display. In this case, he may

be liable for a criminal act if small children are around. Any organization has accountability to those who belong — a university is no different.

One final thought. Mr. Matthews is so bent on the courts — he may want to understand that the courts have limited his free speech in many way i.e. Mr. Matthews may wish to shout "fire" in a crowded theater (and I wouldn't put it past him) but the courts have restricted this "right."

Kevin Flynn
Alumnus

Former coach Ware misrepresented in Aug. 31 article as greedy

Coach Ware and I were colleagues as assistant coaches and then became head coaches at the same time. He confided in me when departing that he was not leaving because of the money differential. The numbers representing this differential — \$45,000 (Truman) and \$75,000 (Missouri Southern) — are inaccurate.

If Coach Ware would have remained at Truman, he would have made \$50,000 plus some change. Our salaries were the same. His first year at Missouri Southern was somewhere between \$68,000 to \$72,000 I believe, according to published figures I have seen in official statements. However, I am not sure, so to state it as fact would be incorrect to do so.

The point is, Coach Ware was not a mercenary merely following the money and to manipulate the numbers (i.e. truth) to prove a point or promote an agenda is all too common in today's culture.

Jack Schrader
Men's Basketball Head Coach

Editorial section overlooks key topics in recent issue of the Index

I was shocked and dismayed by your editorial staff's apparent lack of concern — or knowledge — of current events.

In your Aug. 31 edition, the opinion section smacked of amateur, high school rhetoric. From the ridiculously altruistic "Community Must Rise Against Recent Troubles" to Whitney McFerron's rambling piece on her own trip to Finland, this section was as dialogue sparking as a magenta Jell-O mold.

With the exception of Ross Houston's mildly interesting piece, and Chris Matthews' valid, but poorly argued, freedom of speech invective, not one of the editorials or opinions hit on anything of substance.

With issues like David Horowitz's "Student Bill of Rights" initiative, or the woefully under-staffed fine arts departments' demanding discussion, one would think that your staff could come up with something more hard-hitting than bickering about the blasé name of the new dorms. This is very disappointing, given the Index's better reporting of yesteryear.

Robert T. Topping Jr.
Freshman

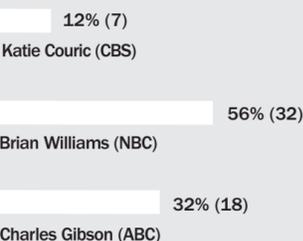
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Web poll

Who's your favorite new network evening news anchor?

Sept. 14 Results

as of midnight Tuesday



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: How well do you treat your "home away from home"?

vote online at
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.

Index corrections

- Spencer Wilkes passed away Aug. 18, not Aug. 17 as stated in the article "Friends find hope in T-shirt memorial" on Page 1 in the Aug. 31 issue.
- Police officials are not sure whether Chris Dothage fell from the roof as stated in "Fraternity honors fellow brother" on Page 1 in the Aug. 31 issue.
- The info graph at the top of Page 8 of the Aug. 31 issue is incorrect. The title should read "Top Five Masters-Level Public Universities in the Midwest."
- There is a factual inaccuracy in "Time features Truman student" on Page 8 in the Aug. 31 issue. Junior Ashley Rufus was passed up a spot on Harvard's waiting list, not acceptance.
- The outline for the top volleyball photograph on Page 17 of the Aug. 31 issue is factually inaccurate. The No. 4-ranked team is supposed to be Concordia University-St. Paul (Minn.), not Barry University (Fla.).

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.