

Money becomes more of a factor for college

We are slowly being phased out. For years, college has been something that has been obtainable to anyone who had the intelligence and work ethic to complete it. Growing up we were told as long as we got good grades and were involved with extra-curricular activities then we would be able to go to the college of our choice. Those days are over.

The middle-class-born college student is quickly becoming extinct. With the cost of tuition growing steadily every year, and the availability of financial aid becoming more and more scarce, a good college education is slipping through the fingers of many deserving college students every year.

Students now base their college choice not on how well a college fits them but rather how well a college fits their budget. Many students are forced to go to third-rate institutions because their top choices are simply too expensive.

Sources of funding our education are becoming few and far between. Our parents have less extra money to spend, scholarships are becoming more competitive and even harder to retain, and banks and other institutions are putting miles of red tape on any student loan application. A part-time job takes time away from focusing on schoolwork and organizations, which is the reason we came to college in the first place.



Chris Waller

But the worst part about all of this is that the people who should care about this problem don't. State governments keep raising tuition rates throughout the country and refuse to put money back into the education system. Scholarships that we do earn with years of hard work are taken away at the smallest infraction, and we must maintain a demanding grade point average to keep them.

If we do happen to appease the credit gods and receive financial aid from other sources, it takes the school several weeks to actually give us the money. And no one really seems to care.

We must jump through hoop after hoop starting in high school just to receive the funding we need for college, and, after we do earn the money, it takes weeks for bureaucrats to break down and give it to us. Many students, including myself, have not received

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money that has been promised to them, despite the fact that classes started three weeks ago. Students depend on this money not only to pay tuition and rent, but also to buy costly books and supplies that professors expect us to have. Students who turn to the University are just told to take a number and wait patiently. Isn't the University supposed to be there to help us, the students who support it?

Things are hard now, this is true, but what worries me is that things will only get worse for generations to come. Unless this general apathetic attitude toward needy college students changes, and unless the powers that be understand that education is something that deserves funding, we might be the last in our families to enjoy a college education.

Chris Waller is a senior communication and English major from St. Joseph, Mo.

Columnist thanks Croc Hunter for living life sans precaution

There are some people out there who seem invincible. The Crocodile Hunter was one of them.

I was drifting in the pleasant state of sleep last Monday when my radio alarm clock blared the seemingly unbelievable: the khaki-clad, burly bloke who wrestled crocodiles for a living and went by the name "Steve Irwin" was dead.

My first reaction was "Crikey, this can't be true!"

But it was. I leaped off my bunk, almost to my own death, and raced to my laptop to get a grip on the situation. Quickly I maneuvered to CNN's Web site, where the stunning facts presented themselves, leaving no doubt in my mind. Because if CNN says it's true, then it most certainly is.

Irwin was filming a new show about the Great Barrier Reef when, CNN reports, he tangled with nature one last time. As he swam through the reef, closely followed by a camera, he glided over a stingray buried beneath the sand. The creature did what it's best known for: It lashed out with its barbed stinger, catching Irwin right in the chest. That's equivalent to being stabbed in the heart with a dagger. Australia's beloved outdoorsman didn't stand a chance. He died shortly after the incident.

Reading all of this sent me into a temporary state of shock. I had watched many "Crocodile Hunter" shows in the past few years and seen Irwin put headlocks on crocodiles, dance around venomous snakes and chase after all manner of fanged beasts within sight. Sure, he had a few close encounters, but



Sarah Shebek

I'd never seen that his life was in immediate danger. Every adventurous part of my being idolized his audacity, and never doubted he would outlive all of his contemporaries.

Unfortunately, I was wrong. The Croc Hunter is gone, and he's taken a piece of pop culture — and some of what's right with the world — with him. Crocodiles everywhere must be breathing a collective sigh of relief, but as for the rest of the world, we're sighing in sorrow.

The question remains: Did Irwin have it coming? He spent most of his life literally diving into precarious situations and dedicated his life to relocating animals that most people try to avoid. If anyone's ever walked on the wild side, Irwin's outdone them all.

But I can't begrudge someone for spending his or her life in a way that they truly enjoy, even if it seems crazy to the rest of us. No doubt, he absolutely enjoyed his job — his passion was evident in his beaming smile — and was extremely skilled in his profession. Every job involves a certain amount of

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risk, whether it's firefighting or simply driving to the office downtown. Sad to say, many occupations out there don't give much back to society.

Steve Irwin did. He taught us to respect all of creation, no matter how deadly it might be. He taught us that enthusiasm, work ethic, and adventure will get you a lot further in life than sitting in a cubicle and shuffling papers. He taught us the importance of family, as he actively incorporated his wife Terri and two children into his show. Most of all, he demonstrated an enthusiasm for life and nature that is rarely seen today.

Good on ya, mate. The world needs more adventurous souls, more people who aren't afraid to get their hands dirty in a day's work and work tirelessly for a cause. We've lost another with the death of the Crocodile Hunter. Maybe Billy Joel put it best when he sang, "Only the good die young."

Sarah Shebek is a sophomore communication major from Iowa City, Iowa

Local newspaper editor's "chill out" message sends chills

Four sexual assaults in four days? Chill, guys!

That sums up Greg Orear's argument in his Sept. 9 newspaper column, "What's Going On," which he writes for the Kirksville Daily Express. Orear is the managing editor of that paper. He is also often wrong.

The Index Our View tackled local crime in its last issue, after August brought a spike in reports. The coverage wasn't sensational and it shouldn't have alarmed anyone — it was just a necessary warning for the average reader's safety.

Then, this week, Orear took the opposite route and told everyone to just stop worrying altogether.

I can almost understand where he's coming from because Kirksville's various crime rates are all significantly lower than the state average. We still rank near the middle of the pack (safer than Columbia but not quite as safe as Fulton, Mo.) in most safety rankings. But do you think that's Orear's argument?

Of course it's not. Instead, Orear is agitated because local media have been "less than responsible," devoting too much attention to these incidents and causing panic in our safe little paradise town.

"There is no crime wave in Kirksville," he writes. "There are no gangs in Kirksville. There is no organized crime syndicate responsible for these events."

Well, that's probably true, even though Mr. Orear isn't providing any proof of it. And he might even be on to something about the quality of this



Andrew Gant

small town's crime coverage.

But I haven't noticed any riots in the streets to audit the police department or lock our children inside. "Be cautious" is the message I'm getting from most sources.

Except from Orear, of course. His message is "Chill out."

I guess Mr. Orear would prefer we write about nicer things. He wrote a column a few weeks ago about a woman who let her dog drive her car. It was amusing! But then four women reported four rapes, and it was time to shift gears.

What else does he say?

"Look at what your police, the people we pay to protect us, are saying. As I mentioned, they have always been forthright when dealing with the public, more so than most government agencies I have worked with, and they should be commended for that."

OK, sure! They shall consider themselves commended. But it is not Orear's job, as the managing editor of a newspaper

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that reaches more than 17,000 people, to commend the police department. It is his job to help report the things your readers have a right to know.

"If the Kirksville police chief says not to worry, I believe him. If he truly thought there was some substantial threat to Kirksville residents, he would be warning us and trying to allocate more resources from the Council to protect us. But he's not. Because there isn't a problem."

Well, Mr. Orear can believe anything he wants. Someone else might choose not to do that. They are probably reading Mr. Orear's paper and wondering why he likes the police chief so much.

That's all personal. Reporting violent crime, though — when one's in the reporting business — is professional. Mr. Orear shouldn't be afraid to do it.

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Around the Quad

This week's question: "Do you plan to attend Saturday's Hickory Stick game?"



Steve Hupkiss freshman

"Sure. I like football."



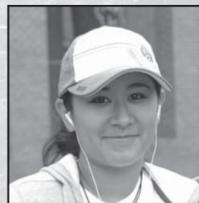
Keith Heft freshman

"Yeah. I like sports. I'm interested in how our team does."



Laura Tully sophomore

"Probably. I have a couple friends on the football team, and it's something to do on a Saturday."



Marisol Barrera junior

"I probably won't. I just don't go to football games."

Tattling is crucial for War on Terror

There's nothing wrong with being a tattling momma's boy.

The male stereotype in me cowers, but I discovered a long time ago that any pride retaken in an act of manly revenge is not nearly as sweet as standing by mother's side and playing the victim. Ultimately, the only thing better than being the last man standing is being right and having authority on your side.

I learned this lesson at an early age when my sister angered me to the point of retaliation. My mother made me purchase a new Barbie to replace the one I beheaded. In a stroke of evil genius, my sister began to decapitate all her Barbies, knowing the heads could easily be put back on. While being unjustly grounded across the hallway from my sister and her growing army of headless dolls, I learned the importance of having justice from a higher power on my side. From then on, I snatched almost daily.

Five years ago this week, President Bush shouted into a bullhorn at ground zero, "The rest of the world hears you! And the people who knocked these buildings down will hear all of us soon!" At the time it felt like the perfect thing to say. At the time, with my anger consuming me, I could not have agreed with him more. At the time, the world had our back.

Last week, President Bush admitted and defended the United States' secret prisons overseas and use of "tough" interrogation. The message was the same: Terror has to pay for what it did on 9/11. But it didn't feel like the right thing to say. I could have not disagreed more with the secret prisons admittance. The world no longer has our back. Why? Have the terrorists infiltrated our media and politics like some kind of McCarthy-era nightmare? Hardly. And yet international humanitarian institutions are calling for an end to secret prisons and the unconventional intelligence tactics employed in the War on Terror.

While fans of "freedom fries" might view this as a threat to some good old American revenge, I doubt United Nations officials and Amnesty International are looking for acts of senseless violence to go unanswered. Rather, in the wake of a painful anniversary of a terrorist attack that does not yet feel repaid, they are assuming a parental status, asking for a timeout to consider the difference between what is fair and what is payback.

There is a need for caution in the time of conventional warfare to maintain an air of innocence, although there is something to be said for the



Phil Jarrett

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foolishness of trying to tack morality onto killing for country.

This same logic applies tenfold in war against any person or group who employs a vaguely defined tactic of politically motivated violence, a.k.a. the "War on Terror." And with terrorism potentially including events such as the firebombing of Dresden or any event when the United States has purposefully attacked civilians, it is important as representatives of a democracy based on intrinsic human rights that we both apply a righteous scrutiny beyond the realms of xenophobia and act according to the principles we promote. This means representation for the legal loophole of "enemy combatants," in a fair trial, with access to the evidence against them, exclusion of evidence extracted by torture and the right to appeal to a higher judicial body. Treating "terrorists" with legal dignity will weaken their support and further just cause.

In the sibling rivalry of terrorists and a revenge-hungry America, international law and human rights must be the higher authority. All offenders must be prosecuted within these boundaries. Otherwise, it is just illegal vengeance and the metaphorical ripping heads off Barbies, which does not in any way facilitate peace.

Terrorism as a concept will only be facilitated by further violence. A true war on terror is the systematic judicial convictions of those who employ terror tactics. And in the twilight of 9/11, let us look to the past as a call to action — not in the name of America but in the name of justice.

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