

# 10 things that need to change about you



What must be fixed at Truman and why we must fix it.



Daniel Glossenger

This likely will be my final column written while I'm here at Truman.

Now, I know some of you are celebrating this thought, and you've got every right to. But before you go breaking out the piñatas and plastic cups with intoxicating contents, hear me out one last time.

The following are 10 things I hate about you. Well, not you, the reader, but Truman. But that suggests Truman — the University, not the man — is reading this. So maybe a better name for this final blowout would be "10 things that need to change about Truman." You, too, can help fix these 10 things, so I'll go from easiest to hardest.

1. Eliminate add/drop and graduation fees. They penalize students for making good decisions — dropping a class they will fail — and the latter smacks of milking students one last time. The additional \$5 fee for double-degree students adds insult to injury. If Truman really needs this money, take it out of tuition.

2. Streamline the bureaucracies. Make it easier to charter organizations and eliminate limits on the number of charter packets. Reduce the number of forms and signatures on forms, especially for things like scholarship jobs and course substitutions during study abroad.

3. Kill or completely overhaul the portfolio project. It doesn't adequately represent learning in fields other than writing, and it doesn't provide any substantive benefit to students who work hard on it. Make it relevant and make it better, or dump it.

4. Fix the degree audit program. Get the software to permit displaying double majors and include graduate programs. Make the requirements on the system clearer, too. Right now, I'm fulfilling a degree audit requirement for "HIST 030 599 3.000," which translates into a 300-level three-credit course with a HIST prefix. But the only way I found that out was by looking it up in the catalog, so I didn't need the degree audit anyway.

5. Make the scholarship job system more equitable by making students who receive more money work more hours than those who receive less. Right now, I earn about \$117 per hour of scholarship job worked. One of the assistant news editors here at the Index earns only \$46 per hour worked on scholarship. That's not fair to her, and I should be required to work more than she does.

6. Install a card access system at Truman. We're years behind other universities, and this isn't such a grand expense as renovations. Plus, money shouldn't stand in the way of standing in the way of intruders.

7. Work to repeal the college costs cap imposed on the Board of Governors. Right now, the Missouri legislature has forbidden our Board from raising tuition more than the cost of inflation. But that doesn't mean that the legislature can't cut our budget. When that happens, we've got no way of raising money to stay afloat. We're incredibly vulnerable because of this law, and the University community must organize against it.

8. Green up the campus. It's the wave of the

future, and in celebration of Earth Week, we should make the commitment now: Buy energy-efficient light bulbs and reduce heating and air conditioning use. And let's reduce light pollution while we're at it. Change the light poles and street lamps to stop projecting light up into the sky. Stargazing is incredible and fun, and Truman should work to promote it.

9. Reduce the coursework requirements to graduate. We all know that the LSP is too bloated and so are the majors, but nobody is willing to say what to ax. So here goes: Kill the public speaking requirement because it can be incorporated into other classes. Take out statistics because it's not necessary for the liberal arts. And drop WACT — we already have writing-enhanced course requirements, and its purpose can be folded into JINS.

10. If you're still reading this, I commend you. The 10th item is simple: Stop renovating non-academic buildings and direct some funds toward Baldwin and McClain halls. Don't just replace the carpet and slap on paint. Baldwin needs a complete rebuild, similar to Pickler Memorial, Magruder Hall and Ophelia Parrish. And McClain needs a better heating and air conditioning system.

These are main academic buildings, and it's time we buckled down and realized that our university is missing the point if we act like academics come fourth to an athletic facility, the Student Union and residence halls.

That's it. I'm done, Truman. The ball is in your court now.

Daniel Glossenger is a senior history major from Nashville, Tenn.

## AROUND THE QUAD

What business or restaurant would you like to come to Kirksville?



"A vegetarian diner."

Jonathan Lessing  
Freshman



"Chipotle."

Drew Clark  
Junior



"Macaroni Grill."

Nathan Imse  
Junior



"An ethnic foods store."

Teresa Kerbawy  
Senior

# Apathy allows students to get more out of college experience



Alex Hayden

I almost couldn't work up the willpower to write this.

I could have written about any number of things: the rising cost of tuition, building renovations or the reorganization of the school. Instead, I find myself writing about a topic that is much closer to my heart: apathy.

Looking back on my years at Truman, I wish I had been more apathetic. My activism on and off campus has not given me the advantages I thought it would. If only I had known the real advantages of being apathetic at Truman, I would have had many fewer headaches. Of course, that is why I am writing this column. Before I leave, I want to pass my knowledge as a graduating senior on to all of you. I want to show the importance that apathy should play in a Truman student's life.

Unfortunately, the University would disagree about our being apathetic. Don't let that fool you. Just because the institution wants you to be active

doesn't mean you should be. Try to practice apathy wherever you can.

A professor wants you to read an assignment? Skim the introductory and concluding sentences of each paragraph to get the gist of the argument. If a teacher has no attendance policy, find students with whom you can trade days to take notes. You will be able to go only one day a week or less and still get all the information you need. It is just not worth your time to sit in on a lecture that just repeats something you already read. Learn to do the bare minimum.

Classwork is not the only area in which you should become apathetic. Although future employers and graduate schools do look at the activities and organizations in which you have been involved, they cannot take into account how active you have been in them. To employers and graduate programs, activities and organizations are just part of a list. As such, there is no need to put any effort into any of these.

Learn to go for quantity over quality. Become activated in honorary societies that do not do anything. Join student organizations, then never go to meetings and never help plan events. Want an executive position? Become vice president. Most student organizations have no clear duties laid out for the vice president. This means

you get to walk away with a title while doing near to nothing.

The best part of having an apathetic attitude besides building a bulky résumé is the freedom you have. Let others do the legwork. You will have all the free time you should have to enjoy life as a college student. Most of us only will get to go through college once. Why waste it working?

Just sit on the Quad and watch everyone else go rushing to class or student meetings. You would not believe the satisfaction you get in knowing you have the better end of the deal. While others are busy and stressing out of their minds, you'll be apathetically lounging wherever, whenever and however you like. The world becomes your oyster when you learn to not care.

If anything, the lesson that you should take away from me about Truman is this: Learn to be apathetic and still look accomplished. Do the bare minimum. It is not worth your time to become fully engaged.

Just do what you have to in order to "get your education" and then get out. After all, most of you do that already, so the best part is it won't take any effort at all.

Alex Hayden is a senior philosophy and religion and communication major from Jefferson City, Mo.

# Bartenders' minor mistakes can result in major consequences



Brenna McDermott

There's an old saying my mother used to tell me: "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." It's probably relevant to anyone, but in some cases, I think it's especially important. Recent alcohol busts at the local Kirksville bars (see story, page 1) would lend themselves well to the phrase, "Cite me once, shame on you. Cite me twice, shame on me."

The punishment for serving alcohol to a minor is a class B misdemeanor for the first offense. The second offense is a class A misdemeanor. But I'm not really concerned with what class offense serving a minor is. I'm just concerned with serving a minor.

I'm aware that bars aren't particularly known for their morals or high standards as much as booze and debauchery, but there is a reason those of us who aren't 21 aren't lawfully allowed to drink. I don't know what that reason is, but there is a law, so

Everyone makes mistakes, but mistaking a minor for being 21 or choosing to knowingly serve a minor isn't OK.

really, I don't have to know. No one has to understand it, but we all have to follow it.

In a bar, in the dark, among all the drunk people, with the loud music, with 20 people trying to order a drink at the same time, it must be hard for a bartender to keep track of who has ordered what, who has had one too many and who shouldn't have any at all.

But being inattentive isn't ever an excuse for breaking the law. OK, maybe once, for some offenses, you can get away with a warning. But twice definitely isn't OK. So when a bartender is absent-minded for just a few seconds, he might make the tiny mistake of serving alcohol to someone who shouldn't be drinking. And that is bad for all kinds of reasons.

The thing about those pesky laws is that they aren't in place to torture us like we might think. When people speed on the road, the police don't

pull them over to enact some sort of "Hostel"-like torment. The law is there so we don't break our skulls open while we're flying down Highway 63, trying to get home for summer vacation. Similarly, there are laws about bartenders serving alcohol to minors so that the bartenders aren't blamed for a death when drunk minors crash their cars into trees and kill themselves.

Everyone makes mistakes, but mistaking a minor for being 21 or choosing to knowingly serve a minor isn't OK. Establishments have to follow the law whether they understand it or not. Law enforcement officers have a right to come in and correct mistakes that take place, and when they do, they have no sympathy for those who knowingly break the law.

So like my mom says, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." Lessons can be learned, but they don't always sink in. These busts should be the only ones because if they aren't, these establishments aren't just endangering minors — they are endangering themselves.

Brenna McDermott is a freshman undeclared major from St. Louis, Mo.

# Environment should be biggest concern for garbage proposal



Kelsey Landhuis

To celebrate Earth Week, the city of Kirksville and its garbage disposal service, Veolia Environmental Services, hosted a forum to discuss how to encourage Kirksville residents to — wait for it — throw more stuff away.

Yes, that's right. Forget reduce, reuse, recycle. That crap is for hippies. The waste management proposal Veolia is advocating involves increasing the weekly trash quota to one large item and a 96-gallon container per household (see story, Page 6). Not surprisingly, a Veolia representative stated that raising the trash limit likely would decrease recycling by half.

Why would the city consider this proposal, you might ask? You won't find any answers here because I have the same question. Why, at a time in history when even Al Sharpton and Pat Robertson can agree that the environment is in trouble, does the city fail to consider environmental concerns in regard to its waste disposal?

Granted, the city has not selected a proposal yet, but it should not even consider options that allow citizens to worry less about the amount of trash they are generating. If people have more trash every week than they can get rid of, the city needs to figure out how to recycle more, not how to change the system to allow for more trash.

People in Kirksville — and across the country — need to learn that the planet is not a renewable resource. Landfills are overflowing, often with products that could be

reused. Nuclear waste is carted off to a mountain in Nevada. The ice caps are melting. Plant and animal species are dying off.

This is not alarmist thinking. This is the reality of failing to take care of our planet for centuries and now facing the consequences. Having a larger garbage quota might be convenient now, but what about in two years, or five or 10, when all the landfills are full and there is nowhere to put it? When gas is \$10 a gallon because we were too lazy to engineer environmentally friendly vehicles and never ended our dependence on oil? When the ocean levels have risen and half of Florida is underwater? How much will convenience be worth to you then?

Having a larger garbage quota might be convenient now, but what about in 10 years when all the landfills are full and there is nowhere to put it?

Recycling is one area in which the University can set an example for the community. Truman has an excellent on-campus recycling program that many students take for granted. It is important to realize,

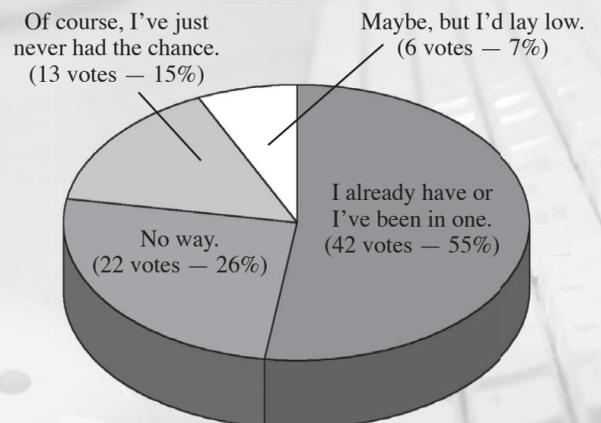
however, that the University really is unique in its commitment to the environment. At some other universities, there is nary a recycling bin in sight. At Truman, it's hard to look somewhere without seeing one.

Students need to spread this passion for the environment to Kirksville at large. Make it known that you will not stand for a waste disposal program that does not place recycling front and center. Encourage your friends, neighbors and family members to recycle. If you live off campus and regularly exceed your trash quota, spend time assessing your consumption rather than looking for someplace to dump your garbage. If we all make the commitment to preserving the environment, we can make a difference in the planet's future.

Kelsey Landhuis is a junior English major from Cedar Rapids, Iowa

## WEB POLL

Would you ever attend a drag show?



This week's question:  
How did you celebrate Earth Week?

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