

OUR VIEW

Take Thornton out of Truman hall of fame

When Charles "Cookie" Thornton was inducted into the Truman Athletics Hall of Fame in 1994, he probably represented some of the best that Bulldog athletics had produced.

From reports by his former classmates to articles in the Echo yearbook, all indicators point to Thornton being a friendly, outgoing and all-around good guy. He was an All-American track star, which means he also had to pull good grades as well as excel as an athlete. He had an ear-to-ear grin in each of his yearbook photos.

But 14 years, an ongoing struggle with the Kirkwood City Council and one tragic event later, Thornton no longer represents what it means to be an exemplary Bulldog.

And although it won't fix what's already happened or punish Thornton — who was killed by police after murdering five innocent people at the council meeting — his name no longer seems appropriate to be in the same Hall of Fame with Bulldog standouts such as Harry Gallatin and Kenneth Gardner, who represent achievement and a lifetime of nobility and decency.

The Truman Athletics Hall of Fame bylaws include the following: "The purpose of the Truman State University Athletics Hall of Fame is to recognize and honor those athletes and/or individuals who have given significant service to the athletics program at Truman State University ... for achieving greatness in athletics, for building sportsmanship, character and a competitive spirit; for elevating the team above self; and for being an example of those valuable and noble lessons of life that are so skillfully taught on the field of competition."

It's pretty cut and dry that someone who goes on a killing spree at a city council meeting no longer is an example of any of the aforementioned valuable

or noble qualities, and it's fairly obvious when reading those bylaws that the Truman Hall of Fame is intended to be a shrine for players who weren't only outstanding athletes, but also outstanding people.

Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering said the Hall of Fame selection works on a nomination basis, and a committee votes on the candidates each spring. He also said there's no policy in place for removal of

a member of the Hall but that he will discuss the situation with University President Barbara Dixon and bring it to the Hall committee in the spring.

Really, no policy is needed — desperate times call for desperate measures — but it's understandable that the committee can't get together until its scheduled spring meeting. Hopefully at that meeting, Thornton's name will be pulled from the group of athletes who ideally represent Truman's best.

Thornton might have been an outstanding person when he was elected — as Wollmering said, "Obviously, at the time he was inducted, we can't predict things like this." And Thornton definitely was an outstanding athlete — he still holds the University records in the indoor and outdoor high jump. There's no reason to think about retracting that: History can't be erased.

But a hall of fame isn't a record book — it's there to display the athletes the Truman community should be most proud of.

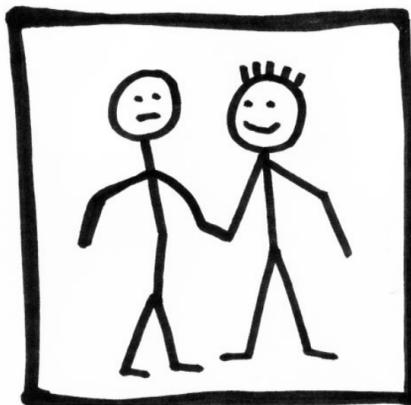
We hope that when this issue is brought to President Dixon and the Hall of Fame committee, they realize that no one who has committed such a heinous act — no matter how fast they ran, how high they jumped, how many rebounds they pulled down or how many touchdowns they threw — should remain shoulder to shoulder with the standouts in our hallowed hall of Bulldogs.

No one who has committed such an act should remain with the standouts in our hallowed hall of Bulldog athletics.

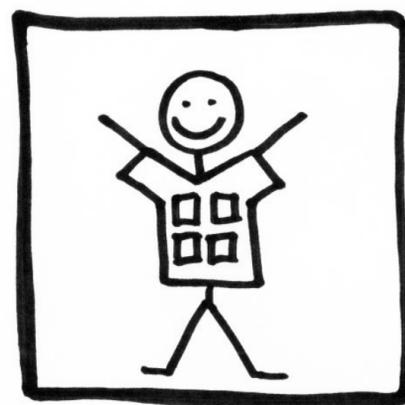
CORRECTIONS

- An article titled "Accountability for use of student fee prompts review" on page 3 of the Feb. 7 issue of the Index incorrectly stated the amount of the portion of the fee that can be refunded. Currently, students can request a refund of their \$2-per-semester fee, not \$2-per-year.
- A photograph on page 6 of the Feb. 7 issue of the Index was incorrect. The tower depicted was not the cell phone tower discussed in the story but the nearby KTRM transmission tower.
- A photograph attribution on page 19 of the Feb. 7 issue of the Index was incorrect. The photograph of junior Banks Estridge was taken by Mark Hardy, not Brian O'Shaughnessy.

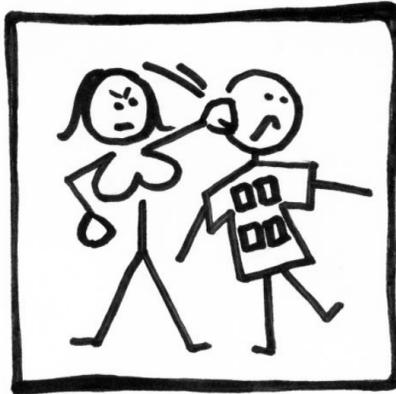
How about this for a shirt?



see Dick rush



see Dick acquire tasteless rush shirt



see Dick try to pick up women



see lonely Dick on Valentine's Day

MKLCO

Letters to the Editor

Letter about smoking ban ignores public interest

In his letter to the editor in the Feb. 7 issue of the Index, Justin Logan suggests that when people own a business, they should be able to do whatever they want.

Of course, Logan is referring to the local smoking ban and, I would guess, to smoking bans in general. His error lies in the fact that he dismisses the importance of the public health, i.e. the effects of second-hand smoke, so readily. Second-hand smoke is not some theoretical phenomenon. Its effects have been studied and well documented. Removing the general public's

unwanted exposure to the toxicants related to this activity is the easiest and simplest way to make sure its effects are not felt.

But of course, Logan's is an argument of property rights. Well, let's say that a bar owner thinks he should be able to serve alcoholic beverages to 10-year-olds and that some of his most loyal customers would love to bring their kids in for a drink as well. Why shouldn't they be able to?

I own my car, and I like to drive it around from time to time. Who can tell me that I'm not allowed to drink alcohol or take off my seatbelt while doing so? It's my property.

The answer to both of these questions is: the law. The problem is, these laws are made in the interest of public health, not the interest of bar owners or drivers. Laws like this also don't just get passed on the government's whim. In the instance of the Kirksville smoking ban, the issue was put to a public vote. The ban passed by a margin of nearly 700 votes.

So if you have a problem with the smoking ban, you're in the unfortunate minority.

Craig Hermann
Alumnus

Independent theater needs kickstart of helping hands



Kelsey Landhuis

Choices are good. Whether it is between Burger King and McDonald's, paper and plastic or boxers and briefs, variety is the spice of life. That is why it is so depressing that Kirksville's movie scene currently offers no choices.

The independent theater project being proposed by two Truman students (see story, Page 3) is just what the University and the community needs. A recent study conducted by the company Art and Science discovered what Truman students have known for years: Kirksville is not the most exciting place in the world. The study found that the town's image needs a major boost in order to attract more prospective students, and a hip movie theater that screens independent films definitely would be a step in the right direction. Without the support of the community, however, the project never will survive.

As far as movies go, options in Kirksville are limited. Downtown Cinema 8 doesn't show films that are in limited release, which is fine if you want to see "Step Up 2: The Streets" and not, say, "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly." The theater even misses out on some big movies: Academy Award-nominated "There Will Be Blood," for example, only will come to Kirksville if it is released to 2,300 locations, according to Downtown Cinema 8's Web site. There is a definite lack of variety in movie choices, and a theater specializing in independent films would help fill the void.

Some might have doubts about the ability of a theater like this to survive in Kirksville, but the University provides a built-in market. What self-respecting college student doesn't love a good indie flick? Successful models — like the Ragtag Cinema in Columbia, which has expressed interest in supporting the theater project — have demonstrated that college towns can sustain art house cinemas. Admittedly, Kirksville is no Columbia, but the town is enough of a cultural desert that students and community members alike would flock to the oasis of a theater offering current independent films.

So far, however, community

members have been less than enthusiastic in their support for such a project. The students who proposed it have been told that bringing independent film to Kirksville is not feasible, although the director of the Kirksville Arts Association did state that such a project is "in our long-term plans."

That isn't good enough. As the Art and Science study made blindingly clear, the time for action is now. Kirksville and the University are in desperate need of an image makeover, and student-led projects like this one should be encouraged, not put on the back burner indefinitely.

Admittedly, creating this theater will be a long and difficult process. Making the concept a reality will require perseverance, dedication and of course, cash. If University students and staff genuinely want to improve Kirksville's image, they need to show it by offering moral and financial support to these two students and their idea. Opening an independent theater is a risk, but it is exactly the type of project that will help Kirksville shed its Podunk reputation.

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

INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909
Staff

Managing Editor Jessie Gasch	Editor in Chief Nathan Becker	Opinions Editor Daniel Glossenger
Sports Editor Joe Barker	Features Editor Jessica Rapp	News Editor Julie Williams
Assistant Sports Editor Blake Toppmeyer	Assistant Features Editor Alex Boles	Assistant News Editors Chris Boning Diane Poelker
Sports Staff Brent Foster Arron Husted Corey Jaros Jack Nicholl Ben Yarnell	Features Staff Harry Burson Franklin Cline Mark Couch Ryan Dalton Stephanie Hall Julia Hansen Dylan Herx Lauren Miller Laura Prather Jonathan Stutte Kanna Taylor	News Staff Renée Cella Caitlin Dean Jean Kaul Charlotte Keenan Becka Mayfield John Moenster Kelly Schute Heather Turner
Photo Editor Mark Hardy	Design Chief Nick Wiley	Copy Chief Megan Kleo
Assistant Photo Editor Brian O'Shaughnessy	Designers Andrea Bailey Avishek Banskota Antionette Bedessie Leah Bowring William Young	Copy Editors Bradley Bartlett Matt Butler Jenifer Calandra Sara DeGonia Amanda Jackson Kelsey Landhuis Zoe Martin Kelly Schute
Photographers Mayank Dhungana Erin Lee Givarez Krista Goodman Blake Peterson Beth Rolf	Advertising Manager Ashley Hancock	Circulation Manager Justin Dildine
Online Editor Mike Solomon	Advertising Designers Kelley Hulse Tina May	Distribution Aaron Ely Kyle Oesch
Business Manager Chris Vernaci	Adviser Don Krause	

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 500 words except at the discretion of the Editorial Board. All letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, signed by at least one individual and include a phone number for verification. The Index does not publish anonymous letters to the editor. 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.

Editorial Policy

The Index is published Thursdays during the school year by students at Truman State University, Kirksville, MO 63501. The first copy is free, and additional copies cost 50 cents each. The production offices are located in Barnett Hall. We can be reached by phone at 660-785-4449. The Index is a designated public forum, and 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 Editorial Board through a majority vote. The Editorial Board consists of the editor in chief, managing editor, news editor, copy chief 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.

Advertising Policy

For up-to-date information on current rates or to inquire about the availability of classified ads in the Index, contact our advertising department at 660-785-4319. Our fax number is 660-785-7601, or you can e-mail us at indexads@truman.edu.

What was going on in the

INDEX?

60 years ago ...
Friday, Feb. 13, 1948

A recreation room was created on the third floor of Kirk Building, in which ping pong, handball tables and a shuffleboard were open to all members of the University.

50 years ago ...
Friday, Feb. 12, 1958

At the Feb. 4 Board of Regents meeting, the Board voted to name a proposed 30-unit new building Fair Apartments, in honor of Eugene Fair, former University president.