

Women deserve to hear about abortion pros, cons



Phil Jarrett

Nobody enjoys abortion. Words fly, pamphlets litter mailboxes, but nobody seems to pay attention to the simple fact, and here I repeat for emphasis: Nobody enjoys abortion. And still the Missouri House of Representatives has passed a revised bill painting physicians performing abortions as manipulative and sinister, trying to trick pregnant women into an abortion without giving them all their options. Introducing House Bill 1831: the baby-killer anti-coercion bill (not the official name ... not yet, anyway). Republican Representative Bob

Onder filed this ludicrous legislation on the 35th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, a day he called "infamous." Cue thunderclap sound effect. And yet, like so many other public spectacles put on by elected officials in this state, this pro-life bill manages to completely undermine its own moral high ground by committing the very act it claims to prevent. The main feature of the bill would criminalize the coercion of women into having an abortion. If such intimidation were going on, certainly it would be wise to stop it. There is no argument on this point. Women in the unfortunate situation that they would even have to consider an abortion should be able to make informed, autonomous decisions without any external pressure — like the external pressure put forth in the rest of Onder's bill. For starters, the bill states that the physician performing or inducing the abortion must provide the patient with materials about the child's anatomical

development, alternatives to abortion and the possibility of causing pain to the unborn child. Then the physician must provide women with the possibility to view an ultrasound and listen to the heartbeat of their unborn child. Although these acts are informative, they are noticeably one-sidedly informative and guilt-inducing. Things really start to get hairy when the bill calls for these physicians to "prominently display statements encouraging a pregnant woman seeking an abortion to contact agencies that help women carry an unborn child to full term and that no one can coerce a person to have an abortion." Please note that it is still perfectly OK for a person to coerce a woman into keeping the child. This is where Onder's bill needs some revision to give it a taste of its own rhetoric. If any persons would be guilty of coercing pregnant women into decisions they would not otherwise make,

it would be the counselors of so-called pregnancy crisis centers. These pro-life propaganda outlets should be subjected to the same standards. If the goal is to inform women about their decision, all women should be given the same information on both sides of the debate. Crisis counselors should have to provide their clients with materials about the health risks of bringing a child to full term, the costs involved with childbirth and development in comparison to the cost of adoption, statistics on overpopulation, pain alleviation for an aborted fetus, the bureaucracy and abuses within American foster care and the relative safety of abortion procedures. To top things off, there should be a sign prominently displaying information about agencies that can spare women the one-sided information and give them all their options without any agenda. And like Onder's version, it should be illegal to coerce a woman's decision

in the pro-life direction. Her decision should be her own, not what the state has decided to endorse. Nobody enjoys abortion. It is a morally repugnant act, as is the intimidation of a woman into having one. But that is only half the picture. Old men in the House of Representatives know nothing about the individual circumstance that might result in an abortion. Given their inability to squelch the moral repugnance of social inequality, war, crime, lack of health care and education, they should have no right to coerce a woman to bring a child into such a world on terms not of her own making. If the pro-life decision were so obviously right that it could be imposed on all citizens, the manipulative and "infamous" House Bill 1831 would not need to exist.

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AROUND THE QUAD

How have you been affected by rising gas prices?



"I ride with other people more and walk across campus instead of driving."

*Carra Doss
Senior*



"I probably won't be going home as much this summer."

*Kristine Loomis
Senior*



"I don't drive around Kirksville, and it limits the number of times I go home."

*Emeline Rogers
Senior*



"I don't have a car, but prices affect me when I borrow other people's."

*Joey Puricelli
Senior*

Exploring multiple interests provides growth opportunity



Andrew Kindiger

It's easy to see that Truman students are getting excited about the end of the school year. Some already have sold back textbooks and others finally are visualizing a life outside of class where they can start reading the books they want. Summer for a college student is a great time to take a breath and relax.

A life outside of academia helps give students a change of pace. Some students go home and work, some have lined up internships and even those who choose to take a few classes during the summer still enjoy a pleasant change from the full academic year. This change of scenery is almost crucial because being too focused on a particular subject, like a major, can collapse your thoughts and scope of interest. Even if you choose to take classes varying in subject matter, those subjects become a central focus for the semester. Attaining a deep knowledge of a subject is beneficial, but it's nice to be able to have some time to step away from that atmosphere for a while and do something different.

When summer comes, it's easy to step away. For many students, a chief obligation simply is to get through a couple hours of a summer job, make a little money, then eventually make their way back to campus in the fall. Lots of opportunities for distractions are easily visible in this sort of schedule. People can start reading the books they've been thinking about all year but haven't had the time to read, spend time with people they haven't seen in awhile or just sleep in if they want to.

Summer is fantastic, but it's sad that students need three months to pull themselves out of their focus on academics. Granted, during the school year it's hard to sleep in on weekdays, and classes cannot be ignored, but students should be able to find a balance between academic life and other activities that allow for a change of perspective during the school year.

Even something like paying attention to the news seems difficult for students who are not studying

political science. Being familiar with what is going on outside of the University is very important, not only to be informed but also to contribute to the purpose of college. College is not supposed to teach a person about only one subject — it's also a good opportunity for an individual to grow. I've heard many students express their frustration with not being able to participate in extracurricular activities because they have to concentrate on classes. But ignoring other beneficial pursuits entirely is going to hinder the perspective of those students. Class is important, but it is not the only facet of college that should be given consideration. Students should be able to balance their schedules between the things that they want to do and the things that they have to do. Part of this balancing process mainly has to do with the realization that course work isn't everything.

During the summer, students have to balance their time between work, friends and other activities, but the tricks we master during the summer in regards to multitasking sometimes easily are forgotten during the year. Especially when classes start getting a little harder, your allotment of free time gets smaller and smaller to make room for the extra studying you have to do. Sometimes particular classes require a lot of devotion, but extracurricular involvement and even academic pursuits outside of your general coursework are important to consider in the midst of a hectic schedule. It's easy to think this way right before finals, when things are winding down. It will be harder during the year to keep in mind that classes are important but not at the cost of sacrificing all of your time. People should be able to read the paper and fit learning about the rest of the world into their schedules. It shouldn't be a chore to add on an extracurricular activity to beef up a résumé.

College is a time to concentrate on a particular area of study but also to grow as an individual. A life outside of academics is just as important as an education. Summer shouldn't be the only opportunity for this sort of exploration, even though it gives a much better excuse to sleep in later.

Andrew Kindiger is a freshman English major from Liberty, Mo.

Buying from local businesses benefits environment, economy



Jackie Gonzalez

Of course I care about protecting the environment. Yet in a blatant form of hypocrisy, I also make some poor choices. Yes, I choose plastic dinnerware regularly to avoid doing dishes. Yes, I do prefer lengthy showers. Yes, I always buy bottles of Bulldogua. Or at least I always used to. I've come to the realization that I need to walk my talk. Upon reflection, my current lifestyle might imply that I, on the contrary, hate the environment. So I'm taking baby steps. On Tuesday I experienced a momentous personal achievement when I went to the campus bookstore and bought a water bottle — a reusable (and quite fancy) bright green Truman water bottle. Granted, this isn't going to cure even a fraction of environmental issues, but making a commitment to avoid plastics and stick to reusable products felt good to me. Yet as I took my first sip, I realized that I had already made a mistake many campus environmentalists would frown upon — I failed to buy this bottle locally. My newly developed eco-conscious

Making a personal decision to be environmentally conscious is a lifestyle.

lifestyle spawned from the recent Earth Week events put together by more than a dozen campus organizations. It was through Earth Week that I learned something I previously hadn't put much thought into: the importance of buying locally. The week's keynote speaker, economist Michael Shuman, opened my eyes to real issues that stem from supporting large-scale corporations. It reminded me of Wal-Mart's newest advertising campaign: "Save money. Live better." The purpose of its entire campaign is to demonstrate that it sells a few environmentally friendly products. Yet as Shuman pointed out, what Wal-Mart doesn't factor in is the fuel and wasted energy that it requires to get the products to the store in the first place. Buying specific light bulbs might use less energy, but having it shipped from thousands of miles away is simply counterproductive. Buying locally (food or otherwise) also allows the community to grow economically. It uses less energy for shipping while granting the actual producers more profit. On a small scale, it seems like an easy adjustment — places like Hy-Vee and the farmer's market offer fresh foods

at reasonable enough prices for students, and Patty's Bookstore provides the same course materials as our campus one, which is affiliated with the mighty Barnes and Noble.

On a larger scale, however, switching to locally owned partnerships is not the easiest thing. Prior to Shuman's presentation, the event coordinators told a story involving difficulties the organizers faced when they chose to go local when obtaining books for the book signing.

When the University discovered event coordinators were working with the competing (local) bookstore, school officials informed them that their decision to buy books elsewhere was against campus policies. Although the store owner instead donated books to the coordinators to avoid University troubles, this did prevent the group from providing a service to the local business owner.

Buying locally is one of the most important things I learned from last week's event. Earth Week in its entirety reached out to me, as I'm sure it did many others. It emphasized to me that it is the small things that count. Even the small transitions to more eco-friendly habits can have an effect over time. Making a personal decision to be more environmentally conscious isn't some hip trend that will fade as we grow — it's a lifestyle.

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TV station changes could provide chance for student involvement



Kelsey Landhuis

Everything is finally coming together for campus media organizations. After a fall semester of Internet-only broadcast, KTRM hit the airwaves again this spring. The Index staff members are learning their new positions. And News 36 is broadening its horizons and its programming with TruTV. That's because currently for on-campus viewers, News 36 only airs at 5:30 p.m., 9 p.m., 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. Tuesdays, and it's the only actual programming on channel 36. So unless you specifically plan to watch the show, the chances that you will just stumble across it are extremely low. It might come as a surprise to those outside the communication department that the University even has a TV news show. News 36 in its new incarnation as TruTV wants to change that by offering three hours of original programming each week, which will air for four consecutive days,

according to a press release. Although this might seem like a lot of repetition for a small amount of television, this measure will allow TruTV to move beyond its current niche audience and reach a much broader group of viewers. For example, based on the schedule provided in the press release, if you miss News 36 on Tuesday, you also can catch it Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., 9 p.m., 10 p.m. or 2 a.m. The technique of broadcasting the same program several times throughout the day already has been proven effective by cable TV stations such as Bravo (try finding a time this week when an episode of "Top Chef" is not airing), and it should serve TruTV well. Once more people start watching TruTV, the next step is to get them to participate. Creating enthusiasm for student-produced shows will make or break the station because a half-hour news program alone will not draw viewers. TruTV has the potential to provide an opportunity for students to not only learn broadcast journalism skills but also to express their creativity. Just think of the possibilities: a weekly sports show devoted exclusively to Truman athletics, a comedy sketch show produced by TAG Improv, a talent showcase for local musicians.

Instead of devoting your time and energy to updating your video diary on YouTube, you could be creating your very own TV show. Another possibility discussed in the TruTV press release was the ability to broadcast University events. This is an intriguing notion, but the only event explicitly mentioned was the spring graduation ceremony, which is hardly must-see TV. Better options might include musical performances and plays, especially because theater performances often sell out due to high demand or a limited amount of seating. Televising these events would allow a larger audience to experience them and generate more interest in the cultural events for which University students, faculty and staff work hard to prepare. TruTV has the potential to provide benefits not only for journalism students but for the University as a whole. Students should take an interest in their peers' efforts to improve campus media by watching the channel, but they also should get involved themselves. TruTV can become a viable entertainment option, but only if students care enough to contribute.

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