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OUR VIEW

U.S. 63 bypass would hurt local community

Do you ever stop in Moberly to get gas? Didn't think so.

Ever stop in Macon for gas on a trip to St. Louis or Kansas City? Maybe not every time, but probably more than you stop in Moberly. Of course, the next question is, do you ever wonder why you stop at the Home of the Toastmaster, Macon, Mo.?

It probably has a lot to do with something called "limited access." Limited access simply means that you can't just turn off of the highway directly into the lot of a Casey's

General Store or slip unobtrusively under the Golden Arches. It also means that Macon receives the sales tax revenue that Moberly otherwise might if U.S. Highway 63 did not bypass the latter. Drivers can whiz by Moberly's establishments without a second thought.

So why is Kirksville considering a bypass that would accomplish exactly the same thing (see story, page six)?

One of the arguments in favor of the highway bypass is that Kirksville has a higher-than-average accident rate because drivers on U.S. 63 must navigate through a dozen stoplights, scores of curb cuts and the endless entrances and exits of Baltimore Street.

But let's step back for a moment and consider this argument — we should build a multi-million dollar expansion to our highway system so that drivers can increase their speed? This hardly seems like an appropriate response.

Supporters of a bypass also posit that traffic congestion on Baltimore Street has adversely affected travel times. We can't argue with the fact that it can be a little tedious to get to Wal-Mart during Kirksville "rush hour." But most local drivers now can easily avoid the extra few minutes of driving time by taking different routes to reach their destinations.

The only drivers who would save

time via the bypass would be those cosmopolitan travelers going from Columbia, Mo., to Ottumwa, Iowa — those very drivers who we don't necessarily want to speed past us.

But it is not that the necessity of the bypass has not been demonstrated. More so, it is that a bypass likely would be detrimental to the economic health of Kirksville. By allowing drivers literally to bypass Kirksville, they necessarily are allowed to bypass an amalgam of fast food restaurants, gas stations and hotels — all types of businesses that thrive on extra traffic.

There is the counter-argument that businesses can move to a location closer to an exit from the highway bypass and that Kirksville would receive just the same (or even more) revenue from new business construction. No matter how much extra construction revenue is generated by a bypass, the long-term economic growth of Kirksville is at stake.

Why would most drivers bother with the time it takes to get off the road and search for a gas station or a fast food joint? If drivers won't bother with Moberly, who are we to think we're any different? Drivers won't slow down Where People Make the Difference in Kirksville any more than they do in the Magic City of Moberly.

We can't help but wonder what that would mean for the long stretch of commercial properties on Baltimore Street, where several vacant buildings already exist.

Should Truman students want even more abandoned gas stations and boarded-up fast food restaurants? Of course not. But a bypass would encourage the traffic-dependent businesses on Baltimore Street to migrate even farther from the Truman campus — and further from Truman students' interests.

A bypass would encourage the businesses on Baltimore Street to migrate even farther from the Truman campus.

CORRECTIONS

- A graphic accompanying an article titled "Container law ups campus arrests" on page 1 of the Oct. 18 Index was incorrect. The total number of referrals by the Department of Public Safety includes both the number of arrests and referrals because every student arrest results in a referral (the number of arrests, however, did increase).
- An article titled "Provost selection forums planned" on page 1 of the Oct. 25 Index was incorrect. The nominating committee for selecting candidates for the position of provost included faculty, staff, administration and students.
- A column titled "Playoff chances revealed" on page 19 of the Oct. 25 Index misstated the record of the men's soccer team. The column should have said, "Especially considering their 0-6 record against the the top 10 teams in their region," not "especially considering their 0-6 region record."
- A pull quotation in an article titled "Speakers return for surprise visit" on page 7 of the Oct. 25 Index misspelled a name and was incorrect. The student's name is Joseph Grissom, not Grimson, and he is a junior, not a sophomore.
- A photograph caption accompanying an article titled "Homecoming organizers strive to increase diversity" on page 3 of the Oct. 25 Index misspelled a name. The student's name is Joe Tullmann, not Tullman.



Letters to the Editor

Senate President urges students to apply for activities fee committee, attend VPAA candidate forums

Dear Students,
I would like to inform you about an important student committee currently being formed.

Every three years, in accordance with the Organizational Activities Fee Guidelines, a student committee is charged with the task of reviewing the use of student money by the Student Senate, the Student Activities Board, the Funds Allotment Council and the Collegiate Readership Program. The budgets of these organizations are funded by the activities fee collected from every student's tuition.

This committee represents the most direct opportunity for the student body to ensure the quality of the expenditures of these organizations. The OAF Review committee is composed of two members from Senate, SAB and FAC, as well as three members of the student body. The chair of the OAF Review committee will be a student-at-large. The committee's responsibilities include determining if the usage of funds meets OAF Guidelines. The committee also will determine student satisfaction with the usage of fee money and identify any shortcomings in the usage and effectiveness of the fee.

Furthermore, the OAF review committee will work with members of the organizations to guide them in reviewing their constitutions as well as make recommendations to the organizations as to how they can use the fee more effectively. The OAF Review committee then will present a report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate in spring 2008. I urge members of the student body to apply for the committee chair position as well as the other at-large positions. Applicants should be motivated and prepared to attend regular weekly meetings for the duration of the review process.

If you are concerned with how student organizations spend your money, then I strongly suggest you apply for this committee as you will have the opportunity to shape the future of OAF expenditures. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at mas346@truman.edu. Applications can be turned in online at senate.truman.edu under "Committee Chairs."

I recently came back from the first of four student forums for the candidates for vice president of academic affairs. Although I am glad there were about 20 students present, I was fairly disappointed with the poor turnout. Needless to say, the faculty forums were packed. I know you're busy — trust me, I am, too. These candidates who are being considered for hire will have a major impact on the future of our institution. Could you spare 15 minutes, please?

The following are the dates and times for the remaining student forums. Each is located in Violette Hall 1000. Susan Conner: Nov. 1, 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. Troy Paino: Nov. 5, 3 - 4:15 p.m. Lance Grahn: Nov. 13, 3 - 4:15 p.m.

Matt Szczyzk
Junior
President of the Student Senate

Intolerant perspectives on Greeks are not justifiable or acceptable

"Sorry if this offends anyone, but ..." I just returned from yet another class in which one or more students have felt it necessary to make derogatory comments about Truman Greeks and "justified" it with the above stated opener.

Might I ask when it became socially acceptable at Truman to openly discriminate against certain groups and organizations? I am offended by these comments, and I'm not sorry about it. With all the incredible philanthropic activities Greeks provide for both Truman and the local and national communities, as well as all the leadership roles they take on outside of their Greek organizations, it is a wonder that Truman's Greeks still are compartmentalized into the conventional "Animal House" cliché. It kills me that students and professors alike might utter whatever slander presents itself in their minds regarding Greeks, but if someone were to say like-minded things about any other group on campus they know nothing about, that person would be automatically labeled as intolerant and contemptible (as they should be!).

The mind-blowing part? Because of my major and minors, most of these comments I've heard over time have come from those in the former Social Science, English and Fine Arts divisions — the "open-minded" tracts of Truman. As someone who has dedicated four and a half years both to these divisions and to Greek life at Truman, it's a slap in the face every single time I hear one of these comments from a peer.

Ellie Glenn
Senior
Member of Sigma Kappa

Our View's support for free speech zone based on unsound reasoning

In the Oct. 25 issue of the Index, the Our View proposed the creation of a "free speech zone" on the Mall, to which "public speeches and sermons, ... proselytizing and unregistered pamphlet-giving" would be restricted. Although it might seem reasonable on the surface, this proposition is, in fact, an attack on free speech, as such a measure would restrict unnecessarily the opportunity for individuals to express themselves on campus.

The Editorial Board's reasons for proposing this restriction on speech are threefold. The first is "the disruption of pedestrian traffic on campus." It is said the Student Conduct Code "provides little direction as to what constitutes obstruction" and that restricting speakers to a particular area would make it easier for the Department of Public Safety to enforce the rule. But the Student Conduct Code is vague in this matter for a perfectly good reason: Disruption is relative to the situation, and it is up to DPS to decide what is disruptive in any specific instance. If a speaker is obstructing traffic, that speaker can then be asked to move — there is no need to designate a particular area to try to deal in advance with possible disruptions. The "potential for violence" that is cited next, apart from being unresolved by the proposed restriction of speakers to the Mall, is an issue that should be dealt with if and when such situations actually occur. The University should not restrict individuals' ability to speak where they want for fear of what might happen.

The Editorial Board's final reason for its proposition is "the death of appropriate discourse about important issues." This is a subtle but direct attack on free speech. It is neither necessary nor desirable for the Editorial Board, the University or anyone else to determine what is "appropriate" in discourse. That is a matter of opinion, and the prerogative of the individuals in the discussion. All opinions, including "polemics ... laced with intolerance of beliefs," must be given free course

or we run the risk of expression being restricted by some particular group — once the right of expression is violated, freedom of belief is compromised as well.

The Editorial Board says we must protect "real expression," but all expression is "real expression," even if one finds it irrational, offensive or intolerant, and it must be protected as long as it does not violate the rights of others blatantly. The greatest possible demonstration of free speech is not seen when peaceful, rational, inoffensive discourse is going on.

It is seen when individuals stand up and say unreasonable things that offend everyone around them, and they are allowed to go on speaking because it is their right.

John Feiner
Senior

Capitalism offers "caring" system of incentives for better performance

Capitalism is not a zero sum system in which people make money by taking it from others, as Marie Weichold said in her letter in the Oct. 25 issue of the Index. Rather, when people in a capitalistic system make money, they are not taking it from someone else.

Instead, they are creating wealth by providing a good or service that people want or need. Whether it is their labor that drives the economy, their products that are better and cheaper than existing ones or their money in the form of investments or loans that help people fulfill their own dreams, people make money by helping others. In this way we are able to advance as a society.

Capitalism offers market rewards like money to those who help others in society, instead of using the government to — sometimes violently — force people to transfer their wealth to others. It might not look like it at first, but when it comes to getting people to help other people, the choice is clear: Capitalism cares.

Justin Logan
Sophomore
College Libertarians

Withdrawal from Iraq would invite destabilization and let down Iraqis

Withdraw from Iraq? Liberals advocating a complete withdrawal fail to comprehend the geopolitical realities of such a move. If the U.S. withdrew every single troop tomorrow, it would be an open invitation for Iran to invade from the east and become the dominant regional hegemon. This would destabilize the region to a degree not seen in modern history. It is foolish to consider abandoning the mission at a time when the insurgency is on the retreat.

We urged Iraqis to rise up against Saddam Hussein following the conclusion of the Gulf War, and they were crushed. Now, it is time to show our resilience and prove to the Iraqi people that this time we will stand next to them, shoulder to shoulder, and help defend their freedom.

Every day, brave Iraqis join the Iraqi Security Forces, risking not only their own lives but also the lives of their families, who may be killed in retaliation. Today, the Iraqi Security Forces include more than 350 thousand courageous Iraqis who trust we will not leave until the insurgency is defeated and they are able to defend their country on their own. We cannot let them down.

Tyler Gritts
Senior

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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, 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.

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