

## OUR VIEW

# SUB renovations don't measure up to desires

The Student Union Building renovations are continuing on schedule, but with more and more of the building reopening for students' eyes, we see less and less that's impressive enough to write home about.

First, we don't aim to slight the contractors and builders, nor the architects themselves. After all, the University got what it wanted, and so far the quality of the job has surpassed our expectations. We only need recall previous campus renovation projects (such as Ophelia Parrish) that weren't done correctly or on time to applaud the SUB renovation crew.

However, the results of the renovations so far are not at all what we expected. Naturally, some of our complaints will come across as trivial — especially to those who never enjoyed certain aspects of the SUB — but other points are of such a substantial nature that they inevitably will be detrimental to students' experiences at and memories of the SUB.

Chief among our criticisms is that the SUB has lost its welcoming ambiance. Although "welcoming" might sound vague, but surely this is the quality the heart of our campus clearly should embody.

The Down Under once featured three eateries (one of which has been closed permanently), a separate café area, arcade games, pool tables, ping pong, foosball and air hockey. In losing these trivialities of the Down Under, however, we have gained so much: an expanded corporate bookstore, more office space and a oft-locked stage area that features pock-marked concrete columns and a few lackluster chairs.

That's not to mention a paint scheme in the new SUB that ranges from a sickly gray for the offices to a strange greenish hue for some walls and ceiling trim. The University's obsession with strange colors no longer is limited to McClain Hall's glaring orange loungers, lime green couches and bright purple carpet.

Granted, students were asked to

provide input on swatches of carpet, paint and trim colors — but none of the options were particularly appealing.

Finally, there's little to draw students Down Under anymore beyond an aging television set and some tired-looking couches that were sagging before the renovations started.

But the troubles with the SUB don't stop with the Down Under — Mainstreet Market and the second level of the SUB reveal the real results of the renovation so far. The main hallway once featured elegant glass cases in which organizations could display materials, which now have been ripped out to "open up" the seating area, and ornate cornice molding will be covered up by standard trim.

And that ceiling without tiles over Mainstreet that you thought was still in progress? That's an architectural element that's going to stay. After all, what kind of fuddudud doesn't like exposed drainpipes, wiring and rafters and that unfinished look anyway?

Unfortunately, all the elements that we most hoped would change somehow have managed to dig in and stay with us for the long haul. The same cramped, oddly configured Mainstreet Market eateries still lure students, except now they've been corralled behind a large off-white wall.

In the words of one student we asked, "it looks like they just wanted to make it harder to steal stuff."

The scuffed white-speckled tile floor remains, too, but it has been "updated" to reflect current tacky trends with giant purple Ts and golden Bulldog faces embedded in the floor.

It's easy to remark that there is little to be done now that renovations are well underway, but an attitude of "grin and bear it" often leads to bearing the bitterness of long-term dissatisfaction. However, such bitterness only can bear fruit through the welcoming rain of criticism.

Perhaps in another 40 years the next incarnation of the SUB will be restored to its former charms.

## CORRECTIONS

- An article titled "BOG approves FieldTurf bid" on page 1 of the Nov. 8 Index was incorrect. The University is considering several types of artificial turf, not only the FieldTurf brand.
- An article titled "Council approves campus-Square walkway project" on page 6 of the Nov. 8 Index was incorrect. Quotations attributed to senior Ryan Littleton should have been attributed to junior Dakota Stearns.
- An article titled "Small-town war veterans share stories" on page 15 of the Nov. 8 Index included an incomplete paraphrase. Charles Elam said he did not expect to see his overseas friends again, not just his friends.



## Letters to the Editor

### Leverson's sentence unjustly imposes too harsh penalties

According to an article in the Nov. 8 issue of the Index, Jerard Leverson might go to prison for 15 years and will never be able to vote, serve on a jury, hold public office or own a firearm for the rest of his life.

You're probably thinking he must have done something awful to deserve such punishment, like committing battery, armed robbery or attempted murder. If you thought he violently attacked another person, you'd be wrong. If you thought he took something that didn't belong to him, you'd be wrong. If you even thought that the law he broke involved hurting another person in any way, you'd be wrong.

That's right, Jerard Leverson is being punished severely for possessing and distributing a plant — a plant that if smoked makes you feel happy and confused. When I argue against harsh penalties for possession and distribution of marijuana, I'm not saying we should allow marijuana to be distributed to children or be completely unregulated and available to everyone. I'm just saying that we need to stop putting people in prison for 15 years and taking away many of their basic rights for doing something that hurts no one but themselves.

Some might say that these individuals shouldn't have the right to make mistakes, but even if you think the government should make choices for people so they don't make mistakes I think you would agree that going to prison for 15 years hurts people a lot more than smoking marijuana. In addition, the unhealthy effects of using marijuana aren't even as bad for you as cigarettes and alcohol: two legal, intoxicating, unhealthy substances. Instead of having strict laws that put non-violent people away, we should decriminalize the use and possession of drugs so that people who make unhealthy decisions aren't punished further but get the help they need.

If you are interested in working to stop these destructive drug policies, I urge you to work with the College Libertarians, SSDP and NORML in their efforts to decriminalize marijuana so people like Jerard Leverson aren't punished harshly for making a mistake that only hurts themselves.

Justin Logan  
Sophomore  
College Libertarians

### Editor's Note:

The preceding letter included references to restrictions placed on those convicted of felonies, specifically the right to vote and to hold public office, which are factually inaccurate.

Section 155.133.2 (2) of the Missouri Revised Statutes states that no person shall be eligible to vote "while on probation or parole after conviction of a felony, until finally discharged

from such probation or parole,"

unless the felony was connected with voting itself. Section 561.021.2 of the Missouri Revised Statutes states that "a person who pleads guilty or nolo contendere or is convicted under the laws of this state of a felony or under the laws of another jurisdiction of a crime which, if committed within this state, would be a felony, shall be ineligible to hold any public office, elective or appointive, under the government of this state or any agency or political subdivision thereof, until the completion of his sentence or period of probation," unless the felony was connected with voting. The ability to own a firearm after being convicted of a crime is restricted pursuant to Title 18 U.S. Code 922.g (1), which states that "it shall be unlawful for any person who has been convicted in any court of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year ... to possess ... any firearm or ammunition which has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce." Section 494.425 (4) of the Missouri Revised Statutes disqualifies "any person who has been convicted of a felony, unless such person has been restored to his civil rights" from serving on a jury.

Daniel Glossenger  
Index Opinions Editor

### Recycling coordinator requests no garbage in recycling bins

Nov. 15 is America Recycles Day. Although a commitment to recycling should be a part of our everyday lives, this day serves to remind all of us that recycling is important.

The average American generates 4.4 pounds of garbage a day and uses about 580 pounds of paper each year. Recycling is not such a big deal once you get in the habit of doing it. It is likely that many of the items you are tossing in your trashcan could actually be recycled or used for another purpose. On the Truman campus, we recycle soda cans and plastic bottles, paper, all envelopes, cardboard, newspapers, magazines, books, toner cartridges and even glass. In case you didn't know, a soda can that goes to a landfill can take up to 500 years to decompose!

With your help, we can make a difference for future generations. Simply take the time to put recyclables in the correct plastic bins located in the residence halls and in the campus buildings. Please don't put your trash in recycling containers! This creates a big problem for those who are picking up the recyclables, and usually the entire container is contaminated and none of it can be recycled. Students living off campus with no access to curbside recycling can take all their recyclables to the Truman Recycling Center located off LaHarpe, across from the rappelling tower.

For more information on Truman's

recycling program, please stop by the Truman Recycles Day promotion today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Student Union. Thank you for your commitment to making our world a better place for future generations.

Howard Worcester  
Truman Recycling Coordinator

### Index should cover club sports without regard to coaching staff

I am deeply disappointed by the lack of coverage of both our Ultimate Frisbee teams this year.

Last spring, the women's team won a bid to the national tournament, but the Index has yet to mention its performance this season. However, I have been subjected to two stories per issue about the football team and its record, which is barely above .500 as of this writing. On Nov. 4, the men won the Harvest Moon tournament in Fayetteville, Ark., for their first championship win since spring 2004.

Yet, the Index failed to bring this to the student body's attention. The women's team won both the Harvest Moon tournament Nov. 4 and the Missouri Loves Company tournament in Columbia on Nov. 11. They went undefeated at Harvest Moon and are now two-time defending champs of both tournaments. However, the Index also deemed TSU's accomplishments at Harvest Moon unworthy of attention. I do not know if the Index plans to cover this weekend's tournament, but I doubt it.

I've been told that the reason for this lack of coverage is an Index rule that forbids covering any team without a non-student coach. But all students deserve recognition for their accomplishments.

I'd much rather read about a team or student organization's successes than any group's failures. It is my hope that the Index will review its sports coverage policy and resume coverage of all deserving teams, whether they have a student coach or not.

Laura Trieschmann  
Graduate Student

### Editor's Note:

The Index sports section's primary focus always has been and always will be on the 21 varsity-level University-sponsored sports.

If space permits, some club sports will be and have been covered. With many club sports on campus, it is tough to decide which sports merit coverage and which ones do not. Starting in August 2007, it has been Index policy only to cover club sports that have a season-ending tournament and are coached by someone who is neither a student at any university nor a player on the team.

Joe Barker  
Index Sports Editor

## INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909

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### Editorial and 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](mailto:index@truman.edu) or on our Web site at [www.trumanindex.com](http://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.

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.

### Advertising Policy

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## WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE INDEX

50 years ago  
Nov. 13, 1957  
Vol. 49, Issue 26

The University unveiled a plaque on Veterans Day commemorating the nine alumni who gave their lives in the Korean War.

20 years ago  
Nov. 12, 1987  
Vol. 79, Issue 11

Tuition was raised to \$1,320 per year for in-state students and \$2,500 per year for out-of-state students. Room and board for a two-person room increased to \$2,048 per year.

10 years ago  
Nov. 13, 1997  
Vol. 89, Issue 12

A senior football player was hit by a car outside Toons at the corner of McPherson and Main streets and then shot multiple times with a .22 caliber rifle.