

University fails to support student radio



Brenna McDermott

There are some things in life that cannot exist without the other. After all, what is a baseball player without a baseball diamond? What is a teacher without a classroom? What is a radio station ... without the station?

The answer to that question currently is being debated, as KTRM 88.7 The Edge, Truman's very own radio station, fights to broadcast its shows on the air. After the Truman Media Network's move to Barnett Hall and months of being promised a full studio, the radio station still is lacking some equipment. Or all of it.

"Construction was behind last semester," station manager senior Jess Wright said. "The school promised us our studio would be up and running by August. August became September. September became November, and now they are saying that we might not be on the air until next semester."

Because of this, KTRM is forced to broadcast only online.

"We have only the basic equipment necessary to broadcast on the Internet," Wright said. "Our equipment is from the days of Northeast [Missouri State] University. Until we get our new sound boards and the school hires an engineer to set all of our equipment up, broadcasting our programs on the radio is impossible."

Chief announcer senior Katie Evans said the move has hurt listenership.

"Not only have we been neglected by the administration, but we are being forgotten by our former listeners," she said. "Many people who used to listen on 88.7 don't have time to access our

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show online."

And no wonder. How many people would read the Index if it were written on napkins from Pancake City and passed around in the cafeteria? Radio isn't radio without the correct medium. I know I love to drive around listening to the radio, but I don't know that I would have the time to check it out online. I shouldn't have to. KTRM was promised a fully equipped studio to broadcast on the radio.

"We aren't going to be homeless," said then-dean of language and literature Heinz Woelk about the media network's move to Barnett in the Nov. 3, 2005 issue of the Index. "I can't imagine a situation where student

media wouldn't have a place."

Well, KTRM certainly does have a bunch of empty rooms, all with four walls and a ceiling, but it is far from the place that Wright and Evans imagined. A studio with no equipment is useless for broadcasting. KTRM was promised a place to do its work. Right now, that place does not exist. And if the proper workplace does not exist, neither does 88.7.

That is a big problem. Apart from the people who depend on the station for scholarship hours, paid jobs and broadcasting experience, Wright said she and others are there because they have a passion for it.

"We are here because we love to DJ," she said. "Right now that is hardly an option for any of us. At one time, we took great pride in our station. We were proud to show it off and to work there. Now we have no pride in the place where we work, and we have no control over what is happening to us right now."

The fact that the administration has kept KTRM waiting so long is absurd.

The football players would never be denied a stadium to play in. The administration would make sure of that, so why can't it ensure that members of the media network can express themselves and bring information and entertainment to Truman students? Truman media is a service to the students and staff of this University, and it is absolutely ridiculous that this service has been thrown on the back burner.

Although we can't necessarily speed up KTRM's return, we still can stay tuned in. Visit ktrm.truman.edu and support the station while it plays the waiting game. Let the staffers know that we still are listening, and maybe give them a reason to keep believing that our dials will be waiting on 88.7 for their long-overdue return.

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

Safe Rides Program would provide valuable service for many students



Nathan Atkinson

Even drunk people don't like to drive drunk. Hell, everyone who has walked home from the bars on a cold Kirksville night can tell you that drunk walking isn't so great either.

I would hope that everyone would agree with me on, at the very least, the first statement. Student Senate seems to.

At its meeting Oct. 14, a committee was created to consider creating a Safe Rides program at Truman, which would provide a safe ride to people in need on the weekends. This safe ride would be provided whether it be me wanting a ride home from the bars on a cold Saturday night or for somebody who does not feel comfortable or safe walking across town late at night.

Senator Chris Miller, who spearheaded the idea of a Safe Rides program at Truman, said the committee will look into organizational issues in creating such a program. The committee will bring its results back by the end of the semester.

When I first read the Oct. 4 Index article on the proposed creation of such a program, I was apprehensive. In that article, the costs at the time were unknown, but it cited estimates between \$2,000 and \$5,000. I did not like the sound of that much of student money being spent on a program I might never use.

The reason I might never use such a program is because I, like nearly a quarter of Truman students, am a member of a Greek organization. Most Greek organizations provide sober drivers for their members and for those who attend their events. Although I am less likely to use a Safe Rides program, I acknowledge the benefits such a program might provide.

The majority of students at Truman are not Greek and might benefit from Safe Rides because most students cannot take sober drivers for

AROUND THE QUAD

Would you use a Safe Ride sober driver program if it were provided by Student Senate?

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|  <i>Nicole Hagstrom</i> Junior | <p>"If it was available and I needed it, I'd probably use it."</p> |  <i>Max Eisenbraun</i> Senior | <p>"No, because I don't drink."</p> |
|  <i>Elise Bush</i> Sophomore | <p>"I probably wouldn't use it because I'd prefer to use my friends."</p> |  <i>Amanda Kliethermes</i> Freshman | <p>"I feel others should. I'm willing to spend thousands of dollars to save lives."</p> |

granted as I sometimes have done. However, for some Greek organizations, even having official sober drivers is frowned upon or not allowed by their national organizations. Another issue I originally had with the program was the estimated cost that was first proposed, but I learned from Miller that the estimated numbers are no longer appropriate and that the current maximum cost would be \$1,800.

Miller also explained that \$1,500 of that would be needed to rent cars and purchase rental insurance from Enterprise throughout the semester. This rental insurance, along with people not having to use their personal cars, would eliminate most liability issues such a program would have.

The Oct. 4 article also mentioned possible drivers stipends. These stipends are not likely as it is expected that many students would volunteer to perform such a service. There are numerous service organizations, such as Alpha Phi Omega and Alpha Sigma Gamma, which already volunteer to provide such services for organizations when requested. Maybe I am just an optimist in

this situation, but I think that between service organizations and the campus at-large, volunteers would not be in short supply.

Another cost mentioned was that of cell phones, but it also probably will be relatively small. I would assume that local companies would volunteer to sponsor such a program. I see such sponsorship as likely, like when local companies offered phones to be used for free for Greek Week's sober driving program last year.

A Safe Rides program would be beneficial to our school if it only saved one life, and the proposed program is a better use of money than what has been done in the past. A Safe Rides program would provide a more positive utilization of funding for everyone on campus. Truman students already give money to be used by the student government. I know I'm personally glad that this money potentially could be used to save lives.

Nathan Atkinson is a senior political science and philosophy and religion major from Glasgow, Mo.

Scholarship jobs should have equal workloads



Kelsey Landhuis

The story goes like this: A kid works hard in high school, gets good grades and scores well on tests. She applies to Truman and is rewarded with an academic scholarship. She enjoys her free money for a year and then becomes acquainted with the notorious scholarship renewal form, the one that says, "Hey, missy, where do you think you're going with that money? You've got to earn your keep around here."

"Wait, what?" she protests in confusion. "I thought I already was earning my keep — you know, by taking lots of classes and keeping my GPA up? Now I have to do menial labor, too?"

Such is the devious nature of the University's academic scholarship program. The lure of a cheap, high-quality education attracts bright, young minds from across the country. They come to Kirksville for their first year and get used to college life, then discover that to continue receiving their scholarships in full they must perform 60 hours of work each semester, in what amounts to a form of indentured servitude.

Granted, students can choose not to complete scholarship hours and receive 50 percent of their original award. However, many students rely on scholarships to help them pay for their education. Having their aid cut in half is not a viable option, and the 60 hours are a necessary sacrifice.

If the University were to be completely fair, it would eliminate the scholarship job requirement. Students with academic scholarships would earn them in the classroom, just as students with athletic scholarships earn theirs on the field or in the gym. We are here to enrich our minds and pursue degrees, not train for careers as receptionists.

I realize that entirely removing the work requirement from academic scholarships is a pipe dream. Although scholarship jobs might not be fair or logical, they are necessary for the University to offer as much financial aid as it does. However, the current system is in need of a drastic change.

The biggest problem with scholarship jobs — besides the fact that they exist — is the nature of the work itself. All scholarship jobs are not created equal.

My job, for example, consists of spending at least four hours copy editing at the Index office every Wednesday night, hunched over the copy desk with my red pen, reading stories until my eyelids get heavy and the words start to blur together on the page.

My friend, on the other hand, sits in an office for an hour or so once a week, checking her e-mail and watching videos on YouTube. She is fulfilling exactly the same requirements as I am with much less effort, simply because she happened to get a less demanding job.

Discrepancies such as this reveal the current system's lack of structure and standardization. The student who spends 20 minutes per week filing papers should not reap the same benefits as the one who spends five hours at the day care center dealing with sobbing 4-year-olds.

All scholarship jobs should demand similar time commitments, and they all should consist of intellectually stimulating work that relates to students' areas of study. If students actually care about their work and take it seriously, these jobs will stop detracting from the educational process and start enhancing it.

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

Representative Hulshof should vote to override Bush's S-Chip bill veto



Phil Jarrett

Fear is awesome. On account of being freaked out about the future, I have walked away from catastrophic romances, avoided car accidents and not failed out of school. This fear, or productive paranoia, usually is rooted in reason and experience.

Then there is a whole other kind of fear. When mixed with the right amount of spin, it can justify some rather stupid decisions. When mixed with health care policies, stupid decisions now affect the health of our nation. Such is the case with President George W. Bush's veto of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act.

The bill would have expanded the State Children's Health Insurance Program an additional \$35-billion dollars during the course of five years, drawing a good deal of its funding from taxes on cigarettes. Designed to cover uninsured children whose family incomes are too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to afford private insurance, the program's Missouri counterpart covers about 63,000 children in the state.

S-Chip has played a major role since its 1997 advent to decrease the percentage of uninsured low-income children in this country by one-third,

offering kids preventative care and physical and developmental health screenings they otherwise would not receive. A recent Robert Wood Johnson Foundation study showed that only 47 percent of working parents in families with annual incomes less than \$40,000 were offered health insurance through their employers, a 9-percent decrease during the past decade. Clearly, the health care problem facing our youth is only getting worse.

Yet still we have the veto. The fear-based rhetoric employed by the Bush administration is pure sticker-shock. It is easy to start wondering how much of that is going to come out of the next paycheck.

Per-child annual expenditures in Missouri average about \$1,700. That is a lot of money with 63,000 kids. Fear No. 1 is that American taxpayers will be taxed to death. Yet we don't bat an eye when nearly \$10 billion is spent each month in the Iraq war. We have to consider more than just initial price in this matter. The No. 1 cause of bankruptcy in this country is health expenses, most of which come from emergency care. It might be worthwhile to consider how much money can be saved by keeping our kids healthy rather than dealing with them when they are sick from medical neglect.

Another fear is that of government getting involved with medicine at all. The last time I wrote about this topic, I received a letter to the editor sharing horror stories about Canadian hip replacement waiting periods and other gruesome tales. The point was valid but horrifically small in scope.

Despite problems with bureaucracy, Canada is doing a far better job of taking care of the health of the general populace than the United States, where

an estimated 18,000 unnecessary deaths annually occur on account of lack of health insurance. Government-run health care is going to run into snags. That is just the reality of government-run anything. However, just as I cannot reasonably justify the fear-based belief that my getting married would result in the almost immediate death of my happiness, one cannot say that expanded federal health care programs will lead to an Orwellian nightmare of a government where efficiency slowly kills us all off. We do live in a democracy, after all. It certainly needs reform, and we have the privilege of being able to reform it.

Speaking of that privilege to reform, the Senate has mustered up enough bipartisan votes to override Bush's veto of S-Chip. The House still is about 15 votes short of a two-thirds majority. Our representative, Kenny Hulshof, initially voted against the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act. However, he has strayed from GOP consensus before. As his constituents, it is our right and duty to urge him to change his mind.

His information is as follows:
 33 East Broadway, Suite 280
 Columbia, MO 65203
 Phone: (573) 449-5111

Fear does not have to be a bad thing. We still can have productive paranoia about our current health care debacle that continues to get worse while promoting practical programs such as S-Chip that have been shown to work.

Phil Jarrett is a senior communication and philosophy and religion major from Chesterfield, Mo.

This week's question:

Are you concerned about the recall of ConAgra-produced pot pies?

Vote online at www.trumanindex.com

WEB POLL

Should athletes be allowed to register early for classes?

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| <p>Of course. (4% — 3 votes)</p> <p>I really don't care. (6% — 4 votes)</p> | <p>No way! (90% — 57 votes)</p> |
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