

EDITORIAL

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OUR VIEW

Growth in recycling demands volunteers

The Recycling Center has a problem to sort out, and Truman students are responsible.

Since the beginning of the 2007-08 school year, recycling across campus has increased drastically, leaving Truman's Recycling Center with double the amount of recyclable materials processed in the last year. Howard Worcester, Recycling Center coordinator, said this spike in recycling — a contributor to the current shortage of sufficient Recycling Center workers — can be attributed to a growth in student involvement stemming, in part, from the blue, Student-Senate-stamped bins placed in freshman residence hall rooms this semester.

Although we do not revel in the Recycling Center's woes in adjusting to the sudden increase, we applaud both the Student Senate and the student body alike for bringing about such an agreeable dilemma.

In an article in the Feb. 22 issue of the Index regarding last spring's RecycleMania challenge, Worcester said 70 percent of waste on campus comes from student areas and implored that steps be taken to inspire students campus-wide toward recycling. This fall, Senate successfully took on that duty, doling out its blue bins and boosting the level of recycling in residence halls by about 30 percent.

Certainly at a university where students and faculty alike print, scribble out, crumple up and discard enormous amounts of paper daily — not to mention other individual waste — encouraging new students to chip in a little global responsibility was Senate money well-spent.

Furthermore, the Editorial Board salutes those students who have reduced waste, reused resources and sky-rocketed the volume of recycling on campus. Congratulations, conservation-savvy

scholars. You took the time out of your busy schedules to make Truman that much greener, just by sorting your trash. Give yourselves a couple of quick pats on the back and then get back to work. Now is not the time to sit back on your laurels and lap up the praise — there still is much to be done.

This year, Truman ranked ninth out of 201 colleges across the nation in per capita recycling in February's RecycleMania challenge with 57.02 pounds of recyclables per person, according to the competition's Web site, recyclemaniacs.org. The Editorial Board recognizes this great achievement but challenges the campus community to go even further. Combating 57 pounds of material per each of the thousands of students and faculty on campus are only 40 student workers. It doesn't take a mathematician to understand that Truman's Recycling Center is in need of volunteers.

So why not go the extra mile? Apart from kindling warm feelings of do-goodery, increasing campus recycling demonstrates a shared concern for both the appearance and the environmental impact of the University. The University has a responsibility to the global community to lessen its waste and improve its sustainability, and as Truman students, so do we.

So keep the ball rolling. Keep tossing those printouts into the recycling bins in buildings around campus or, better yet, lend the Recycling Center a hand in processing your waste contributions and volunteer. If your room isn't equipped with one of Student Senate's handy bins, you can order one free of charge by visiting its Web site, senate.truman.edu, and clicking on "Student Services." The University is on the right track toward a more environmentally friendly community.

Keep it up, Truman students.

Now is not the time to sit back on your laurels and lap up the praise — there still is much to be done.

CORRECTIONS

- An article titled "Truman helps United Way help others" on page 2 of the Sept. 27 Index misspelled the name of the United Way Drive Chairwoman. Her name is Robyn Koller, not Robyn Kollar.
- A photo caption accompanying a story titled "City to revamp North Park" on page 6 of the Sept. 27 Index misidentified a Kirksville resident. Mike Menne was playing a game of baseball at North Park, not Dan Flannery.
- An article titled "Dr. Dogg, Wilco wow the crowd" on page 12 of the Sept. 27 Index misspelled the name of one of the bands. The band's name is Dr. Dog, not Dr. Dogg.
- A map accompanying an article titled "Two generations see University change" on page 14 of the Sept. 27 Index incorrectly stated when Greenwood School was built. It was constructed in 1935, not 1925.
- An article titled "Haven for music lovers opens in Kirksville" on page 6 of the Sept. 27 Index misspelled a word in a quotation by David Daniels. It should have read, "What the finished product will sound like is what really matters."
- An article titled "Two students compete for Board position" on page 3 of the Sept. 27 Index misidentified Cody Sumter as a second-year student with junior class standing. He is both a third-year student and has junior class standing.
- An article titled "London invades Kirksville with 'No Sex Please'" on page 13 of the Sept. 27 Index incorrectly identified the production company for the play. The Curtain Call Theatre Company is the production company.

INDEX WEB POLL

Oct. 4 Results

as of 9 p.m. Tuesday

Should a college newspaper run an editorial that contains obscenity?

No, it should never be necessary to print obscene words in newspapers.

Maybe, but only on inside pages or if it's unclear from context.

Yes, obscene words should be permissible in editorials to reflect the vernacular of the writer.

15% (9)

49% (29)

35% (21)

Letters to the Editor

Exchange of letters should avoid ad hominem attacks

Recently, shots have been flying over the controversial letter written by Professor Delmonico. True congratulations should be extended to her, if only for starting a dialogue on what I believe everyone would agree is a rare topic of thought.

Because of her letter, there have been responses submitted and then responses to the responses. However, after following this volley of attacks, one clear theme jumps out at me as to the nature of these retorts, and that is the over-prevalence of the ad hominem.

Far too often I read attacks of character instead of logical replies to arguments. Instead of addressing the substance of a statement, I find letters reducing themselves to childish name-calling, assaults of background and irrelevant and baseless attacks. The issue of America's role against non-state military action should be argued, not the political background of a writer. The value of traditional anthems versus modern issues should be mentioned, not the unwarranted idea that because an author has a dissenting opinion, he is a First Amendment-hating, Far Right fascist.

So, overall, my point is this: When writing a response to a point of view, check the personal attacks at the door. They may be a good way to vent some anger and raise the emotion level, but they do very little in the way of weakening an argument.

This applies not only to the current spat dominating the editorial page, but also to all future letters to the editor. Logical reasoning and skepticism should be the driving principles of argumentation, not personal vendettas. To borrow one of the phrases from my favorite iTunes podcasts, LSAT Logic in Everyday Life, "So who's right and who's wrong? Who cares? We're more interested in the argument than the destination."

Sean Cooksey
Freshman

Burns' judgment of Delmonico as un-American is anti-American

Jonathon Burns, the self-appointed "Judge of All That is American," has struck again! Is it that time of year already?

Maybe you can help me out, Burns, because quite frankly, I'm puzzled. Why, with your finely honed ability to discern who is and is not American, are you wasting your time writing letters to the editor of a small-town university newspaper? After all, you could be hiring out your services to our government, assisting them in tracking down those who truly hate America before they strike. I assure you that there would be much better money in such an enterprise than in writing opinion letters. I implore you then, for the good of our fine country, to reconsider your priorities.

Perhaps the main factor limiting your potential anti-American-hunting career, however, is your own apparent misinterpretation of what it really means to be an American in the first place — a liability to a "judge" of your variety, no doubt.

You see, based upon your (typical) hateful belittling of Betsy Delmonico in the Sept. 20 issue of the Index, you might not be aware that in this country, we enjoy the freedom to speak our minds — even if such speech is critical of our own government or societal attitudes. You might even recall that the founders of this country were quite in favor of the idea of dissent, what with the whole American Revolution and all. To suggest, as you did, not only that Delmonico is inherently un-American for exercising her right to voice dissent, but that she get out of the country for doing so, is quite possibly the most anti-American action of all.

I'm wondering how you could gloss over such a very important detail. Of course, this contradiction really

disqualifies you from your post as "Judge of All That is American." The only responsible thing to do would be to resign from your position. But don't worry: You've always got your letter-writing. Then again, the freedom that allows you to write them in the first place is the very same one that you are attacking.

Eric King
English GTRA

Alumnus responds to letter about contraception availability

Professor McLane-Iles does little but distract from many important issues. It is tempting to reply to her many concerns individually, but let's cut to the chase. Contraceptives are ruining relationships between men and women. They give crappy men the ability to have and abandon women, and they give women the opportunity to be promiscuous, ruining their chances to get good men. Even though we're all in college, we should seek to have monogamous relationships and find someone we really want to be with longer than tonight. And though many will claim this is about some abstraction like patriarchy, it's not.

It's an honest assessment of what college life is like when every relationship is precluded from any permanence by the presence of contraceptives. Professor McLane-Iles uses Strossen oddly in her letter and then talks about a Jew holding a child. Isn't the great problem of our age our imploding society and social structures, evidenced by the breakdown of marriage, commitment and families?

Our focus should be on families, commitment and the happiness that can be found in stable, committed relationships and not the continued agenda pushed by both Larry and Betty McLane-Iles.

Jonathon Burns
Alumnus

Representative asks for student input in Vice President selection

Fellow students, as your student representative to the Board of Governors, I often have students question me about Truman's admission and scholarship policies. These are complex questions whose answers depend greatly on the policies and directions set by the University's Vice President for Enrollment Management.

Right now the University is searching for a new Vice President for Enrollment Management and is at the point in the search process where final candidates are brought to campus so we can learn more about them and they can learn more about us in an effort to find the best candidate to fit Truman's needs. Students can play a part in this process by attending the open forums for students on Thursday, Oct. 4, Thursday, Oct. 11, and Friday, Oct. 12, all in Violette Hall 1000 from 5 to 6 p.m.

If you are interested in the future of admission and financial aid policies at Truman, I urge you to attend these forums to learn about the candidates and express your views to the search committee as they make their final recommendations. It is only when you speak up that the student voice is heard.

Emily Kiddoo
Student Representative to the
Board of Governors

Defense of Wal-Mart's policies in name of free market is senseless

In response to the article about Wal-Mart (Index of Sept. 27, page 13), I never cease to find it amazing how some people support almost anything that big business does, usually in the name of the "free market."

Although that term was not used in the article, the underlying assumption usually is that the "invisible hand" of the market always will lead to the best possible outcome. In fact, this is not what Adam Smith himself said.

What he did say is that, in a free market, defined among other things by the presence of a large number of sellers and a large number of buyers, prices will end up at a level which ensures a reasonable but not excessive rate of return to most producers of a commodity. However, as soon as a few buyers or a few sellers dominate a market, they can manipulate prices to their own advantage. Defending such dominant buyers or sellers in the name of the free market is akin to justifying murder in the name of Jesus or Buddha: It just makes no sense.

Wal-Mart, in fact, uses its powerful position as a dominant buyer of a vast array of products to pressure its suppliers to constantly cut prices. Thus, Wal-Mart forces its suppliers in the United States, China, Central America and elsewhere to cut costs by disregarding workers' rights and by polluting the environment. These workers, and the people who suffer from the environmental damage, pay a high price for the low prices offered by Wal-Mart.

Meanwhile, smaller competitors of Wal-Mart cannot pressure their suppliers to cut costs and are forced to close. In a case like this, government intervention in the interest of small businesses would be essential to level the playing field and to restore a free market.

Any interested readers can inform themselves with the abounding literature about Wal-Mart practices that destroy the free market.

Wolfgang Hoeschele
Associate Professor of Geography

Bike Co-op needs student support at Senate meeting

Having spent a weekend at one of the leading institutes supporting sustainable living, critical themes emerged: that young people need to lead this revolution and that the changes involved will be faced with reluctance.

What the Bike Co-op would provide is easy access for students and Kirksville citizens to the pleasure and convenience of a bike. Support of the Bike Co-op from the student body is a critical part of this stage in its development.

On Sunday, Student Senate will be voting on a resolution that could potentially provide a workshop space for the community-shared bikes. Without this space, the Co-op cannot continue to keep its wheels turning. Be a part of the action and progress at 6 p.m. Sunday in the Student Union Building conference room (3rd floor)!

Hannah Hemmelgarn
Junior

Jarrett's column praiseworthy for pointing out ad ploys

Kudos to Phil Jarrett for pointing out the unfortunate advertising ploys used to attract students to AFTERdark. I, along with Jarrett, have not the slightest objection to Campus Christian Fellowship and K-Life having the event on campus. But I find it ironic that the marketing scheme of AFTERdark was to keep students very much in the dark about the event's Christian nature.

Although AFTERdark's message may very well have been relevant and intriguing to "college students from coast to coast," it was certainly not so to all college students. Being deliberately mysterious about the nature of the event — "What is AFTERdark? You should probably find out," the T-shirts teased — was both dishonest and totally unnecessary. Shouldn't students looking for a religious experience be able to seek one out and students who aren't so inclined be able to stay home? Withholding such vital information is a disservice to both types of students, and I hope that CCF and K-Life will be more thoughtful in the future.

Eran Feintuch
Senior

INDEX

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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

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