

Reducing your speed might save Amish lives



Kelsey Landhuis

Hey, you — slow down!
I know I probably sound like your mother, but when you tear down the highway at 80 miles per hour, you are risking your own life and the lives of everyone else on the road. Reckless drivers pose a danger to one group in particular: the Amish, who have been the victims in several buggy-car collisions on Missouri and Iowa highways during the past few weeks. “Buggy crashes?” you are probably

thinking right now. “Are you serious?” Yes, I am. Inconsiderate drivers’ impact on the Amish community may seem like a trivial issue, but although these types of collisions are rare, they often are fatal. Try telling a grieving mother that taking measures to prevent her child’s death was not important because this type of crash doesn’t happen that often. As motorists living in a region with a substantial Amish population, it is our responsibility to take precautions against these collisions. It is obvious who is at fault in these crashes. As far as I know, a buggy driver has never failed to realize that the car in front of him was driving slowly and rear-ended it, sending the car careening into the ditch. Many motorists, on the other hand, do

A buggy is not a minivan.

not take highway driving seriously enough, driving at speeds in excess of the 55-mile-per-hour limit while simultaneously talking on a cell phone, adjusting the radio dial and eating a hamburger. These distractions often have tragic consequences, especially when the other vehicle involved in the crash is not a car or a truck, but a horse-drawn buggy.

A buggy is not a minivan. It can carry about the same number of passengers, but that is where the similarity ends. Buggies do not come with five-star safety ratings, airbags or seat belts. In a crash, the only thing

protecting a buggy’s occupants is the wooden cart itself, which does not stand a chance against a speeding car. As a result, these collisions can be deadly for the buggy occupants — often families.

Many of you probably will be reluctant to obey the speed limit despite the fact that slowing down reduces the chance of a crash. Even my roommate protested, informing me that by driving 65 instead of 55 she arrived at school 10 minutes sooner. Her time is valuable, she added, returning to the pressing matter of checking her Facebook account for new messages. Thank goodness for those extra 10 minutes: I don’t know where else she would have found the time to procrastinate.

But really, is shaving a few minutes off of your trip worth endangering the

lives of everyone else on the highway? In terms of risks and benefits, exceeding the speed limit makes no sense. Sunday afternoon, I nearly witnessed a head-on collision as a car zoomed past me, only to end up behind the same slow-moving pair of semi-trucks that I had been following. He put his life and mine at risk in order to trim about five seconds off his journey. Good call.

Reducing the likelihood of a crash only takes a few small sacrifices. Turn off the cell phone. Leave the radio alone. And for the love of the Amish, drive the speed limit.

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

Around the Quad

This week’s question: “What is your cell phone provider, and is the service good?”



“US Cellular — it’s wonderful, but in my hometown I get no service.”

*Ryan Kroeger
Senior*



“AT&T — no, the service pretty much sucks in Kirksville.”

*Lauren Jacoby
Sophomore*



“Sprint — it’s good, but my housemate has violent fits of rage about Cingular.”

*Becka Mayfield
Junior*



“Sprint — it was good in C-Hall, but not that good on the east side of campus.”

*Emma Goers
Junior*

Letters to the Editor

EDITORIAL NOTE

The following letters all address recent concerns about the Sept. 27 Index editorial, the Our View. We have chosen to preempt regular columnists in light of the responses we received, and we also have chosen to print every letter we received this week about this topic.

Chief among the concerns appears to be the statement in the Our View, “But now, we’re not sure you’re worth the paper you’re printed on.” We stand by this statement, though it has been misquoted and taken out of context. We would like to note that we did not write that you — Truman students — are not worth the paper you’re printed on, only that we are no longer sure. Although this might appear to be a trivial point, we assure you that we do not think you, especially members of the class of 2010, are categorically worthless. In fact, we strongly support both students (including the sophomore) who are candidates for the student representative position.

Second, some students questioned the validity of the Our View because it is unsigned. A few students also suggested cowardice as the reasoning for this. The Our View is not unsigned because of a lack of courage. It is unsigned because it “represents the view of the Index through a majority vote of the Editorial Board.” The Index editorial is a collective effort and should be regarded as such.

However, because of your response, we have changed the editorial policy of the Index. The Our View no longer represents the view of the Index as a whole. We now represent ourselves, the Editorial Board, as opinions editor, copy chief, news editor, managing editor and editor in chief. The printed editorial policy reflects this change, and we apologize both to our staff, who believed that their views were misrepresented, and to our readership, who were unsure of the attribution of the Our View.

Some students also pointed out that they think the student representative to the Board of Governors doesn’t effect much change, therefore making their efforts in other organizations more impactful. The Editorial Board would like to acknowledge that although this is a valid concern, it does reflect apathy toward the position.

Finally, we also would like to extend our regret regarding the Our View itself. Although we continue to support student involvement, we nonetheless have agreed that much of the editorial was too easily taken out of context and was perhaps too harsh in its assessment of students. We encourage you to continue to contact us with your concerns via e-mail, by telephone or by stopping by our office in Barnett Hall.

Index Editorial Board

I apparently have made it “perfectly clear” that I “simply don’t care.”

As a member of the class of 2010, one of the 1,377 students targeted by the Sept. 27 “Our View,” I’m surprised you already know so much about me. I serve as the treasurer for the Residence Hall Association and as the webmaster for Windfall, the campus literary magazine. When I mention one of these two groups, I usually am met with a glazed stare or a shrug of disinterest. Both groups are building their campus recognition, and as an involved member of each, I take a fairly significant role in moving these processes along. I serve as a voting member of Missouri Hall Senate, members of which are regrouping after a year offline and looking to build up our organization to its former glory.

I know. I’m probably “not worth the paper [I’m] printed on.” My voice might not represent the entire campus on the Board of Governors, but I am

part of an organization that represents more than 3,000 students who spend most of the school year within the boundaries of the campus. Although I’m sure you didn’t mean to single anyone out, I would suggest not using such a blanket statement the next time you want to criticize a group of people.

This complaint is for the many people who work with me who also were the target of your undue criticism. They deserve more credit than they receive. Yes, it is unfortunate that there were only two candidates, both of whom are wonderful candidates for the position they seek, but I would not begin your analysis of the situation by assuming we simply didn’t care enough. More likely, we were eager to continue building up this campus as we built up our high schools and are now tied up by obligations we refuse to abandon. You question the strength of my voice due to my failure to apply for a position I thought someone else could dedicate more time to and, consequently, do better?

I hope you find my voice worthy of defending my peers.

*Kim Slattery
Sophomore*

The entire student involvement in the administration of the University is, in a word, inconsequential.

Tristan Wood

Did we really let you down? Are we to be persecuted for our apparent apathy toward the Board position? Or is it possible that there is a third variable that you have not considered? I’m part of the class of 2010 and according to you, we are to blame for the lack of applications received for the Board of Governors position. Is it OK for someone not to be interested in this?

It seems it would be taboo for me to say that the Board position does not interest me, but that does not mean I do not care about the Truman community or well-being as a whole.

But what does it matter: I’m not worth the paper that I’m printed on anyway. I am disappointed — many of us are. We, the class of 2010, greatly would appreciate an official apology in the next issue if you are to regain our faith in the Index and those who run it.

*Joel Hentrich
Sophomore*

No one has ever explained to me what the student representative ... does for Truman students, so why should I care?

Jamie Menown

It is quite obvious to me that the Index fails to comprehend the true worth of the student body of Truman State University, specifically the class of 2010.

Perhaps our worth can be measured in how many people applied to be the new student representative to the Board of Governors. But as any good student can tell you, this method is faulty. It assumes that the only measure of worth is the ability to give oneself entirely to one’s school. Truman students are not simply scholars, and they are not only leaders. They are more than that.

Truman promotes a liberal [arts] education, an education that delves into all areas of life. Truman students are well-rounded — they are athletes, they are artists, they are scientists, they are musicians, they are family members, they are brothers, they are sisters, they are friends. To measure the quality of Truman’s student body by how many apply for a position is to say that we

could measure how good the Index is by what type of font they use.

It is impossible to measure the value of a person, let alone a large group, by one facet. Think about that the next time you call us “apathetic.”

*Phil Raine
Sophomore*

First, I do have choice words that I am restraining to write because, although you don’t deserve it, I have a faint respect for what this publication used to be.

Second, as students at a liberal arts university it is a necessity that we view issues from all sides. This article unfairly attacks the class of 2010 without considering our perspective. Anecdotal evidence is all that this article has to support its outrageous claims.

The lack of applicants for the Board of Governors representative position should not go unrecognized, but it is only one instance in which our class failed to meet standards. Solely placing blame on the sophomore class and stating that these 1,377 students are not worth the paper they’re printed on is being bold without a real explanation or courage, seeing as there is no author to the derogatory article.

Maybe if there were substantial research or proof to support the offensive claims this article makes to the sophomore class, I might understand. But even then, slandering and making gross generalizations about a group of intelligent individuals, who are supposed to be your peers, is unwise and unsettling. I will make a point to make the sophomore students aware of the narrow-minded and condescending opinions the Index supports. I look forward to an apology from the Index to the class of 2010.

Frustrated and enraged,

*Allison Sissom
Sophomore*

I was disgusted when I read “Lack of applicants to BOG reveals apathy” on Sept. 27. And no, I was not abhorred by the class of 2010’s “apathy.”

I was disgusted that the mainstream publication on campus chose to waste ink and paper on a rant about what, in my opinion, is an outstanding sophomore class. Thank you for bothering to include our official accomplishments as reported by the Admissions Office — they only served to invalidate the article.

Yes, we are a smart class. Smart students create back-breaking academic schedules for themselves so they can get the most out of the fine education they are paying for. Yes, we have leadership abilities. That’s why after only a year of attending Truman, we are leading clubs, being elected officers of hall senates, rushing professional societies and taking an active role in service. And we work hard, we sophomores. I think one academic year is sufficient time to weed out anyone who isn’t here to learn and have eye-opening experiences.

So why the attack? Because we didn’t respond to a call to service — one that a majority of sophomores didn’t even know existed. No one has ever explained to me what the student representative to the Board of Governors does for Truman students, so why should I care?

I don’t recall being bombarded by invitations to take on an “esteemed responsibility.” What I can recall are enough ads and posters on campus to make my head spin. I get several “official” Truman e-mails a day asking me to join committees I’ve never heard of and to take surveys to win free stuff.

If the board is so excited to give a student a voice to speak for all students, why not try more actively to recruit that special person? Flyers and e-mails are easy, passive ways to advertise, and it is impossible to give special attention to everything we see.

I know many sophomores who

would have been up for the job had someone bothered to explain to them the significance of the representative’s role and the actual impact possible for the University. But the board missed its chance to engage any of these outstanding sophomores because we don’t take kindly to being insulted.

[Please note: Both the Student Senate President Szcwyczyk and Student Representative Kiddoo sent letters to the editor on Aug. 30 explaining the position and encouraging students to apply.]

And that opinion article was right about one thing: We’re not worth the paper it was printed on. We’re worth a whole lot more than a page of degrading remarks. Thanks for showing us that much.

*Jamie Menown
Sophomore*

To use the mask of an unsigned editorial is cowardice at best and at worst undeniably pathetic.

Katherine C. Limoncelli

Congratulations, Index, on your scathing editorial in the Sept. 27 issue. I applaud the assumption that the class of 2010 is not only apathetic but also undeserving of the praise we have worked so hard to attain.

Please tell me, in your infinite disappointment, did you consider what you were saying, blaming an entire class without real justification? How dare you chastise students for refusing a trivial position?

We deserve praise for being smarter than you believe, for listening to our instincts and not letting someone under a transparent veil of authority dictate our actions. No publication has the right to deem a person or class of people worthless. In addition, to use the mask of an unsigned editorial is cowardice at best and at worst undeniably pathetic. You have marred your formerly spotless reputation. I once had such respect for the Index.

You may be disappointed in 2010, yes, but we return your disenchantment tenfold. To be slandered in such fashion is beyond insulting. I expected so much more than to be told I am not worth the paper on which my records are printed. I apologize for believing in you as more than a petty school newspaper. You have fallen from a high pedestal into a grave of your own making. And what a grave it is! Lined in empty words, worthless moral judgment and no shovels in sight! I am eagerly awaiting a formal apology.

*Katherine C. Limoncelli
Sophomore*

Is it OK for someone not to be interested in this?

Joel Hentrich

I am a sophomore at Truman, and I would like to respond to the editorial that appeared in the Sept. 27 issue of the Index. First, let me say that I do not appreciate the grouping of more 1,000 individuals into a homogeneous group.

Second, I wish to protest the exonerating of all other students in this matter. You honestly cannot expect us to believe that every third- or fourth-year student has a harder course load than every second-year student. This being said, I would like to voice my personal reasons for not applying. It is true that I have a relatively light semester, but I am still taking 16 credit hours and expect to have a difficult second semester. In addition to my coursework, I am involved in TSODA, University Swingers and Cantoria, all of which require a good deal of extracurricular time.

[Please note: The Our View did not state that third- and fourth-year stu-

dents have harder course loads than second-year students.]

Yet my biggest reason for not applying to the board is that I do not believe that it would bring about any change. The entire student involvement in the administration of the University is, in a word, inconsequential.

In my entire first year at Truman I did not hear of one instance in which any other student government body was able to affect significantly any policy decision made by the University. Either students do not have an effective voice, or it is merely not being reported.

And to be frank, I have little faith in student news publications. I have not read a single story in the Index related to the fact that the homecoming committee cut the number of intermediate acts for the lip sync competition from six to two. Yet, there seems to be space enough for a review of “Madden 2008.”

*Tristan Wood
Sophomore*

Poor journalism, Truman Index.

I just finished reading the literary gem in your Sept. 27 issue titled “Lack of applicants to BOG reveals apathy,” and I must say that I never thought the Index would allow an article that takes such a blatant attack against such a large percentage of our student body to be printed, regardless of the fact that it is an opinion.

I don’t know who “our” implies in “Our View,” as it was penned, but I would hope it isn’t the entire Index. Most likely this article came from a few overly frustrated, overzealous upperclassmen who had nothing better to do than take a rather weak stab at about 25 percent of Truman’s student body.

But of course, it’s too late now to change all this. The statistics mentioned in the article do make the sophomore class sound impressive, don’t they? An ACT mid-range of 25-30? Ninety-seven percent have leadership experience? My goodness. I wonder, my implied group of editorial writers, if you took the time and spent the effort to find out how many members of the sophomore class are in a leadership position (or two, or three or more) this year.

Clearly not all of us are filling these positions, but I would wager that there are enough to show that, like every other class on campus, we are leaders, and we are capable of taking on challenges.

Perhaps the reason for the lack of applications for the position is that the vast majority of this class of 2010 has little or no interest in it. Is it the fault of an entire student body for not producing enough “qualified candidates” for one specific area? Look around campus, my esteemed writers. You’ll see the sophomore class there, dedicated and working diligently, the same as any other group of students.

*Grant Berry
Sophomore*

Something on your mind?

Send us a letter

● Go to our Web site www.trumanindex.com and click on “Letter to the Editor”

● Send the letter to index@truman.edu

● Stop by the Index office on the first floor of Barnett Hall