

EDITORIAL

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OUR VIEW

Kirksville technology center warrants praise

Rural Missouri gets accused of being stodgy. Isolated. Behind the times, even.

We're seemingly incognizant of our flyover-state status and our intermittent cell phone service — New Yorkers and Californians routinely wonder why, in the name of all things hip, we haven't escaped our "misery" yet.

Sometimes it's hard to explain. But every so often, something comes along that we can point to that embodies what makes places like Kirksville exceptional in a way Manhattanites will never understand.

One of those things is the Telecommunications Resource Center.

The TCRC doesn't sound like much, and it might never have amounted to more than a well-intentioned abbreviation. Ten years ago, it was founded as a partnership between Truman, the University of Missouri extension, Kirksville schools and the city itself. Like thousands of joint efforts in thousands of cities, it might have spluttered and died among endless hearings and meetings.

But it didn't. It was funded scrupulously and staffed through honest effort. In the 1990s it was a gateway into the wealth of Internet information, a public access center for the less-savvy, gadgetry-challenged computer user. But unlike an old dog, as the need for an Internet station grew less pressing, the TCRC learned new tricks. Updated technology. Community education. Encouragement of entrepreneurship.

The TCRC actually is addressing the issues academics argue over and politicians sputter about. OK, maybe not universal health care or peace in the Middle East, but as the staff trains female farmers to manage their 1,000-acre plots and small business owners to make PowerPoint presentations, they are contributing tangibly to the

advancement of the quality of life of the country.

With a budget of less than \$100,000, the TCRC serves a far-flung community that represents distinct needs. At the city council study session two weeks ago, coordinator Kevin Baiotto bemoaned the fact that some Kirksville citizens

still see the TCRC as a one-hit wonder of online access, failing to take advantage of the center's other Billboard toppers. We say that any organization that has to report on

Spanish-language community-building for Latino families (see story, Page 8), social work classes, seminars on cattle insemination and programs about diabetes, in one 20-minute presentation, ought to be considered something of a Renaissance man. Definitely not stodgy.

Baiotto also detailed the center's extensive use in remote areas of Internet TV (not isolated), the center's imminent move to the new Windows Vista operating system and its bandwidth expansion to an IMA line (not behind the times). Instead of coasting, succumbing to a stuck-in-the-mud existence, the TCRC demonstrates an organization willing to adapt and expand with its constituents' interests — the best kind of outward-looking representation. It has established a successful business model others in Kirksville would benefit from emulating.

A lesser breed would scoff at building a meaningful community center while wrestling with old photocopiers and broken doors, but that's what you get in rural Missouri. You get people who want something other than to do the least work and get the most for themselves and who haven't been soured by instant gratification. You get people who care enough to try.

So call us stodgy or isolated or behind the times, but we'll take the TCRC over the Met any day.

It might have spluttered and died among endless hearings and meetings. But it didn't.

CORRECTIONS

- An article titled "Expanded bill promises new jobs" on pages 1 and 7 of the Sept. 13 Index incorrectly quoted a press release from Gov. Matt Blunt that the Quality Jobs Initiative has already generated 85,000 new jobs in Missouri. According to the press release, Gov. Blunt said that initiatives during his entire tenure have created 85,000 jobs, and that the Quality Jobs Initiative has secured or maintained 17,000 new jobs in Missouri.
- An article titled "Smoke ousts West Campus residents" on pages 1 and 7 of the Sept. 13 Index incorrectly stated that students were allowed to return to the building at about 11 p.m. The problem causing the smoke was fixed by 11 p.m., and students were allowed to return to the building at about 9:30 p.m.
- An article titled "Bulls beat SLU 11-8 for season first win" on page 20 of the Sept. 13 Index incorrectly referred to the St. Louis University Rugby Team as the "Ramblers." The St. Louis Ramblers are a separate rugby club that is not affiliated with SLU, and the proper title of the SLU rugby team is "SLU Rugby."
- An article titled "Freshman goalkeeper playing crucial role" on page 16 of the Sept. 13 Index included information about former men's soccer goalie Chris Kirkweg that was taken out of context. The article should have read, "Head coach Duke Cochran said it wasn't tough to start freshman goalie Kyle Talbot instead of Kirkweg because Talbot earned the position during practice. Kirkweg then decided to focus on academics and is no longer on the team."



Letters to the Editor

Student protests inappropriate warning stickers on bicycles

I recently found two stickers attached to my bicycle warning me not to secure it to anything other than a bike stand or else risk its impoundment. I appreciate these warnings from the Department of Public Safety and do not intend to intentionally violate the rules about having a bike on campus in the future, unless out of necessity.

However, I find these stickers completely inappropriate. There are not nearly enough racks on campus for bicycles to be secured safely without risking damage to either my or another person's bike. As a person who has had a bicycle stolen on this campus before (in 2005), I, as well as many other students I know, am unwilling to simply leave my bicycle parked beside the already crowded rack.

Perhaps DPS should reorganize its budget and provide less funding for warning stickers so it can purchase more racks. A bicycle rack would not be difficult to make for someone who had simple welding skills — perhaps there are mechanically inclined students on campus who would be willing to work to that effect for scholarship hours. I am fully aware that extra funds are difficult to come by in any school setting, including universities, and therefore I understand DPS's failure to correct this problem in the past.

If DPS is unable to obtain more bicycle racks, however, and must continue attaching stickers to students' bicycles, perhaps it should attach them to pedals, wheel spokes, seats or handlebars — not the main body, or tubes, from which white adhesive residue is difficult to remove. Furthermore, if there is another sticker placed over the paint on my bicycle (my private property), I will expect to be compensated for any damage that may occur in its removal. I believe other Truman students feel the same way.

Elizabeth Simmons
Senior

Letter protesting national anthem is "anti-American"

Professor Betsy Delmonico's letter in the Sept. 13 issue of the Index is not only offensive, but also entirely anti-American. Delmonico protests the use of our national anthem, infusing the piece with smug and subtle jabs at the character of America and Americans in general.

Consider her opening line, "On the anniversary of 9/11 (or nine-one-one if you're into puns) we have, as always, choices to make." Does anyone really think this is appropriate? It's as though Delmonico is making light of the anniversary of an attack against our country in which [2,974 people] were killed by militant Muslim lunatics who, like Delmonico, have a problem with America and Americans.

Delmonico suggests that although Key's lyrics were relevant in 1814 when America was "genuinely" being invaded, they no longer are relevant in the wake of 9/11. Clearly, Delmonico implies that America must amend its anthem to get with the times.

Delmonico, what then is your definition of a genuine attack? Perhaps you might prop up your argument by mentioning that the 9/11 attackers belonged to no formal invading army. However, states such as Syria, Iran and Palestine have been using groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah and Al Qaeda to fight proxy wars against nations such as America, Britain, Spain, Turkey, Indonesia, Mo-

rocco, Tunisia, Pakistan, Israel and many other countries. In the contemporary age, not all armies wear uniforms or play by the rules.

It would seem not only that Key's lyrics are as relevant as ever, but also that your own conception of war is obsolete and ignorant. Americans are not warmongers or blood-thirsty, but America also is not in a position to simply avoid all military engagements. We only can look for moderate peace while maintaining an outlook of eternal vigilance. Throughout its history, America and Americans have understood this. Thus, America can still proudly sing of the accuracy and veracity of its anthem.

If you so desire, Delmonico, emigrate from America, lest you be counted among the "free" and "brave" against your wishes. You appear a fan of Roman culture; perhaps you might recall the famous Latin proverb, "Arms keep peace," or Vegetius' famous quote, "Qui desiderat pacem praeparet bellum" (Let him who desires peace prepare for war). Allow me to close with a quote from your beloved Anacreon, "War spares not the brave but the cowardly."

Jonathon Burns
Alumnus

Glossenger fails to support argument with strong evidence

In Daniel Glossenger's column about alcohol being sold at Truman athletic events, I believe that he failed to make any sort of valid argument. Even with the stance he attempted to take, he failed to come up with any evidence to support his viewpoint.

The fact is that with the additional revenue from alcohol and possible sponsorships from Busch, Coors or Miller, the school would be able to build an additional stand and designate a student area somewhere in the stadium. That way these drunken, uncontrollable, rowdy students, whom Glossenger fears and Truman is known for, can be quarantined a safe distance away from the children.

I do not doubt the team spirit and enthusiasm of the people Glossenger tries so valiantly to protect, but it seems to me that the fan base at Stokes is missing something very important: the students. I am not saying that students do not attend the games, because they do. I myself have attended a few games. But I believe that the introduction of alcohol would result in better student attendance, always a plus, and additional revenue. I know that my friends and I would love to attend the game if we were allowed to have a beer or two while there.

Furthermore, would these people who Glossenger claims have "devoted themselves to the teams" really just leave with the introduction of alcohol? I really doubt that they would and hope that the University rethinks its policy on serving alcohol at athletic events as well as its tailgating policy.

Nicholas Cipponeri
Senior

Events with alcohol don't always drive away kid-friendly feelings

Daniel Glossenger's dispute with selling alcohol at sporting events from last week's issue of the Index is poorly argued, ambiguous and reflective of his true misunderstanding of the purpose of sporting events. Glossenger begins by asserting that Truman's athletic events are a family-friendly atmosphere and then extends his case by claiming that

Stokes Stadium has a "kid-friendly" atmosphere as well. What Glossenger has failed to realize in his four years here at Truman is that this is a college for adults. We, the students of Truman, are the ones not only paying tuition but also the athletic fee (\$100 per year). Why not let a beer distributor help foot the bill instead of the students? Perhaps Truman's administration and Glossenger should begin catering to those who pay for this school and not those who are paid by it.

However, to respond directly to Glossenger's outrageous claims, parents ultimately will decide what is safe for their children. Personally, I always have seen a majority of families at every athletic event I have been to where beer was being sold.

Glossenger also describes the chaos that might ensue from students shouting at football games. Although Glossenger might believe in holding up a "Quiet Please" sign during football games, I certainly do not. Perhaps Glossenger was upset at my own cheering and yelling (while sober) for our team. The reality, Glossenger, is that true supporters of Truman athletics will continue to attend the games, and if beer gets more fans in the gates, all the better! Any beer revenue from increased student attendance certainly would make up for local fans missing out if that happens at all.

Samuel Kohler
Alumnus

Article on Mac vs. PC disappoints by ignoring some Mac positives

I was disappointed that some important facts were not presented in the article "Students weigh PC versus Mac." At fault is one student's contention that Macs do not allow users to "right click." This is completely false. Simply connect any mouse to a Mac, regardless of the number of buttons, and it will work. For instance, I control my Mac with a seven-button mouse just as customizably as with Windows. Even Apple's own mouse has used multiple buttons since 2005, which the article fails to address.

As for the cost of a Mac, one must keep in mind the amount and value of all the powerful software that comes with every Mac. The only trial software on a Mac is for Microsoft Office, unlike the myriad amounts of trial software included with many Windows machines. Also, because Apple creates the hardware and the operating system, there is a tight integration between them. There's no need to spend time searching for drivers for any hardware in a Mac. It just works.

Furthermore, no one can ignore the value of his or her own time. Consider all the time spent fighting anti-virus and other security programs for computer resources and ensuring that Windows is protected. This isn't a concern with a Mac. My time is important to me, and I don't want to waste it fighting Windows.

One final point to consider is the fact that any recent Mac can run Windows natively. Apple provides a free tool allowing for the installation of Windows (or any other operating system). It can then reboot as a Windows system at any time. There also is software that can accomplish this within the OS for quicker access. There's a lot about Macs that Windows users could discover if they simply set aside their prejudices and misconceptions and gave them a fair chance.

Jason Hollowed
Sophomore

INDEX

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Editorial Policy

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