

EDITORIAL

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OUR VIEW

Lack of applicants to BOG reveals apathy

Poor showing, Truman students. You don't deserve accolades, and you certainly don't deserve resounding praises like we gave the TCRC last week.

You made it perfectly clear that you simply don't care, and your apathy is mind-boggling. After weeks of advertising in newspapers, putting up posters and creating messages on TruView, a selection committee was able to recommend only two candidates qualified and experienced enough to be the student representative to the Board of Governors. However, it wasn't as if the selection committee was simply too tough on the applicants.

The selection committee was made up of students from a variety of organizations, and they were prepared to interview all applicants to find the "three most qualified candidates," according to the student application packet. Student Senate also prepared questions for the candidates, and Senate was charged with sending the three to Gov. Matt Blunt for personal interviews. Except, of course, for one little problem.

There weren't three "most qualified candidates." There weren't more than three applicants at all.

Granted, some students were disqualified from applying because of the residency requirement — only Missourians could apply. Many students in their third or fourth years at Truman prudently declined to apply because they wouldn't be here for the entire two-year term of the representative. Still more first-year students simply couldn't muster the experience to be up to the job after being at the University for only a few weeks. It's difficult to blame the people in the previous groups for not qualifying or applying.

But there is a select group of

students upon whom we can squarely lay the blame. You know who you are — the class of 2010, with 1,377 students and an ACT mid-range of 25 to 30. You certainly sounded bright in your applications. At least 97 percent of you claimed you had some type of leadership experience in high school, and 70 percent of you said you engaged in "volunteerism." You're not only "talented" but also "distinctive" for your accomplishments, according to the Admissions Office.

If we take your word, you seem like you're downright made for the job of working with the University's highest policy-making body. Heck, you seemed like you were born to have the "esteemed responsibility to be both the face and voice" of nearly 6,000 Truman students.

But now, we're not sure you're worth the paper you're printed on. You didn't apply en masse as might be expected by your reputation. In fact, you barely scratched the surface.

By not applying to be the student representative, you have voided the contract of trust that the University and the state of Missouri has placed in students for years.

It's too late now for you to change all this. The next time you see a crack in Baldwin Hall's hallowed walls, the next time you think the University is derelict in its duties to provide big enough classrooms for its courses, and the next time you think the bookstore might be gouging students with unfair course packet prices — don't even think about complaining. Don't come crying to this letters page to find solace.

We believed in you, Truman students, but you let us down. We only hope that Tom Hogan or Cody Sumter will not do the same.

We believed in you, Truman students, but you let us down.

CORRECTIONS

- An editorial feature titled "Around the Quad" on page 5 of the Sept. 20 Index did not provide adequate context to the question "What do you think of KTRM not being able to broadcast?" The question should have included the contextual information that KTRM is unable to broadcast because of setbacks during the move to Barnett Hall.
- A caption for an unrelated photograph titled "Petition for Justice" on page 7 of the Sept. 20 Index incorrectly identified senior Ryan Gray as president of the Association of Black Collegians. Gray is the sergeant-at-arms for the Association of Black Collegians and is the president of Alpha Phi Alpha. The caption also inaccurately summarized the events prior to charges being filed against the Jena Six. The caption should have read "Senior Ryan Gray, president of Alpha Phi Alpha and sergeant-at-arms of the Association of Black Collegians, talks to freshman Vincent Kurtz about a petition to free the Jena Six. The noose that hangs over Gray's shoulder was used as a way to draw attention to the cause."
- A letter to the editor titled "Article on Mac vs. PC disappoints by ignoring some Mac positives" on page 4 of the Sept. 20 Index incorrectly identified Jason Hollowed as a sophomore. Hollowed is a junior.
- A caption for a photograph accompanying a story titled "Smart shoppers save with online game" on page 9 of the Sept. 20 Index incorrectly stated that Jarrett Anderson "alphabetizes [his coupons] for use on shopping sprees." Anderson neither alphabetizes his coupons nor goes on shopping sprees.



Letters to the Editor

KTRM 88.7 The Edge responds to "Around the Quad" question

Being a part of KTRM, I feel it's necessary to add a little context to the question posed in last week's "Around the Quad."

Throughout the summer, piece by piece, KTRM's new station, now located in Barnett Hall, slowly started taking shape. With a new station, other changes also are being ushered in, including new equipment for the DJ booth, a power boost for our signal and HD broadcasting equipment.

However, because of delays in obtaining the new equipment and the qualified personnel to properly connect the new equipment, we still are unable to broadcast over the airwaves on 88.7 FM. These delays, although frustrating for the station, have not broken our spirit, and thanks to the hard work of our station manager, Jess Wright, and our adviser, Dr. Mark Smith, we are broadcasting online at ktrm.truman.edu 24 hours a day, with live DJs from 7 a.m. to 4 a.m. daily.

When our on-air date draws closer, we will open our doors to the campus community to showcase the brand-spankin'-new KTRM. Although a final on-air date has yet to be set, we encourage you to wait patiently with us, because when we finally get set up, we will be bigger and better than ever.

Katie Evans

KTRM 88.7 Chief Announcer

Jarrett's argument ignores dangers of socialized medicine

In a column in the Sept. 20 issue of the Index, Phil Jarrett attempted to make the argument for government-imposed universal health care. What he fails to mention, however, are the inherent dangers of socialized medicine.

Such a system already exists in Canada, yet the situation is far from rosy. Efficiency is not the hallmark of government bureaucracy, and waiting times in Canadian government-run hospitals are sickening. In a survey of hospital administrators in the Journal of Health Affairs, one must wait more than three weeks for a biopsy to test for breast cancer in 21 percent of Canadian hospitals. Only one percent of U.S. hospital administrators said their hospitals had waiting periods that long.

For a 65-year-old man requiring a hip replacement, 50 percent of Canadian hospital administrators said the wait time was more than six months. Not one American hospital had such a long wait. In fact, a case was filed, Chaoulli v. Quebec, that argued waiting times in Canada since the imposition of socialized medicine were life-threatening and violated human rights.

In an era when the Pentagon can get away with paying \$600 for a toilet seat, is it reasonable to believe government bureaucracy is the answer? More regulations only will increase costs, increasing taxes exponentially in exchange for a poorer quality of service. The status quo is not acceptable, but the answer is in the free market, not big government.

A plan offered by presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani promises to decrease regulations and offer tax cred-

its up to \$15,000 to let all Americans purchase their own insurance instead of being beholden to employers. With millions of Americans now involved in the market, insurance companies will lower prices to stay competitive, at the risk of going out of business if they do not. The only way to lower health care costs is to increase competition, not eliminate it. The idea of government-run hospitals is downright scary.

Tyler Gritts

Senior

Delmonico deserves chance to initiate debate without bigotry

Jonathon Burns in last week's issue of the Index considered professor Betsy Delmonico worthy of unpatriotic emigration. This was because she correctly viewed the old, bloodthirsty American national anthem as needful of a more modern, peaceful rendering [see Letters, Aug. 30 Index].

What all-too-typical arrogance by our ex-College Republican club abuser of everyone who dares to publicly dissent from his Attila the Hun-like take on "patriotism!" By my reckoning, Burns further adds to his insults — rather than using fair reasoning — by citing no less than eight non-American lands as "under attack" by three armed-resistance groups (Burns lumps these three groups together as if they are one and the same, but they are, in fact, different).

Professor Delmonico ought to be able to initiate debate in the newspaper without having to face unjust bigots of the Far Right who obviously want to silence us all. So much for the "land of the free!" So much, but so little from Burns, the young son of Karl Rove!

Larry Iles
Kirkville resident

Sims' Sept. 13 letter warrants more attention than anthem

I would like to commend Mary Sims' letter to the editor in the Sept. 13 issue of the Index which, in the following issue of Sept. 20, there had been no reactive support or follow-up. This was particularly disturbing as this concerns one of the most harmful and tragically myopic legislative actions by the state of Missouri, that is, its decision to eliminate and render illegal dissemination of medical information to sex education classes on contraception.

Whatever one's views on abortion and women's right to choose, it is a disservice to our young people facing the realities and responsibilities of sexual and emotional maturity to leave them in ignorance and deny responsible safeguards to those who are unable or unwilling to make the choice between abstinence and sexual activity.

It is cruel, castigating and irresponsible legislation that will force many of our young people into dark, limited ignorance, increase an already high level of teenage pregnancy and disease and only could increase our already high level of infant mortality. Denying young people medical information about their own bodies and sexual safeguards is imposing risk on their future. It is no different than denying West

African families in high-risk areas for AIDS contraceptive protection which now also is happening.

What also is surprising in the recent issue of Sept. 20 is that, instead of an engaging dialogue or commentary on this topic of vital importance to the physical and mental health of future young Missourians, there is a second letter published on the choice of lyrics for our national anthem. I would not presume to suggest that concern with national symbols represents a less important issue, but Mary Sims' letter deals courageously and directly with an issue of more immediate physical concern that deserves attention.

Instead, we read a letter telling Delmonico that she is unpatriotic and un-American for her reminder to us that the original melody used for our national anthem was based on classical Greek and Roman images of love and wine. She is told to emigrate because she proposed we reconsider the original verses as alternate values to the violent chauvinism inherent in most institutionalized national anthems in western cultures. It would not be difficult to counter many of the frightening, false and harmful assumptions about 9/11, patriotism and Muslim societies thrown about in this letter to Delmonico, but I will instead just ask the author of the letter to Betsy Delmonico to remember the assistance offered you by Nadine Strossen, president of ACLU, when she gave her presentation to the Truman community a few years ago.

After you sat with placards in front of her lectern accusing her of various crimes, she ended her response to your accusations with the suggestion that if anyone ever tries to limit your freedom of speech or stop you from expressing your beliefs, you give her a call. I would hope you would extend the same respect for Delmonico's or anyone else's American patriotism without being told they are not true Americans.

I, myself, remember meeting an older Jewish couple, in Perpignan in southeastern France, following an international gathering of surviving prisoners of war and concentration camps. They were most devastated and still traumatized by the memories of the camps and told me that it was starting again: the xenophobia, the hate and the racism.

The woman, trembling and fragile, told me that her daughter was shocked by her habit of embracing and holding tenderly in her arms immigrant Turkish, Arab or Spanish children and she said to her mother, "How can you, a Jew, hold that child?"

She told me that she answered her daughter simply: "It is because I am a Jew that I do this. It is because I am a Jew that I protect this child in my arms." So, Jonathon Burns, it is because Dr. Delmonico is an American and because she is a citizen of the world that she bravely, knowing the criticism this would inspire, suggests we consider another song.

Betty McLane-Iles
Professor of French

INDEX

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Editorial Policy

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