

EDITORIAL

www.trumanindex.com

OUR VIEW

Grim Hall demolition reveals shallow values

Charlotte the Ghost will be looking for a new haunt soon. Sometime in the early 2010s, Ezra C. Grim Hall likely will be reduced to rubble amid the renovations to Pershing Building (see story, page 1).

Of course, progress necessarily includes a cost at a university where excellence is no accident. With 68 residents, fewer people live in Grim than the number of students who will work on the Index this year. So it would be difficult to recoup the costs of renovating Grim. But it's also no accident that we have such beautifully quirky places as Grim Hall on campus.

Look around Truman, and you'll find places that lurk below the freshly-painted surface of Barnett Hall's corridors or West Campus Suites' new carpet. The top floor of Kirk Building — not Kirk Memorial, mind you — houses a full-size gymnasium and auditorium. Before the construction of Baldwin Auditorium and Pershing Building in the 1950s, Kirk Building held basketball tournaments, theater productions and even square dances.

Now Kirk Building Auditorium houses beat-up microfridges and other University bilk in large chain-link fence cages. The ornate ceiling is crumbling after 85 years, and the wooden seats are cushioned with a blanket of dust. One of the only reasons students stop in Kirk Building anymore is to exchange ID cards that don't work or to see the handful of professors whose offices are located in the former locker rooms of the gymnasium.

A stone's throw from Kirk Building is Kirk Memorial, recently vacated by the few communications professors and the Forensics Union that once inhabited it. It forms the crown of the Quad with its Monticello-inspired architecture.

Of course, almost no one goes to Kirk Memorial anymore, though its marble rotunda has more than once become a quiet haven during a hectic finals week.

Truman prides itself not only on being a campus for academics, but also a special, even "personal," place, according to Truman's Web site. We are, after all, ranked No. 1 in the Midwest Master's category by U.S. News and World Reports — 11 years running.

But if we aspire to be like every other university with cookie-cutter residence halls and uninspiring renovated buildings, a piece of our identity is gone. Keep in mind, not every university can claim to have a former home used as a residence hall, complete with porch swing and backyard.

"Grim is a great building," Residence Life Director Andrea O'Brien said, and "we don't have anything else like Grim." But it still has to go. Replacing plumbing, electrical and sprinkler systems is pretty pricey, not to mention the cost of a repair job on the foundation.

We at the Index don't disagree that renovating Grim might be financially unfeasible according to Truman's current bottom line. But we do question the long-term efficacy of eliminating unique and storied buildings for the sake of an extra volleyball court or a little more parking.

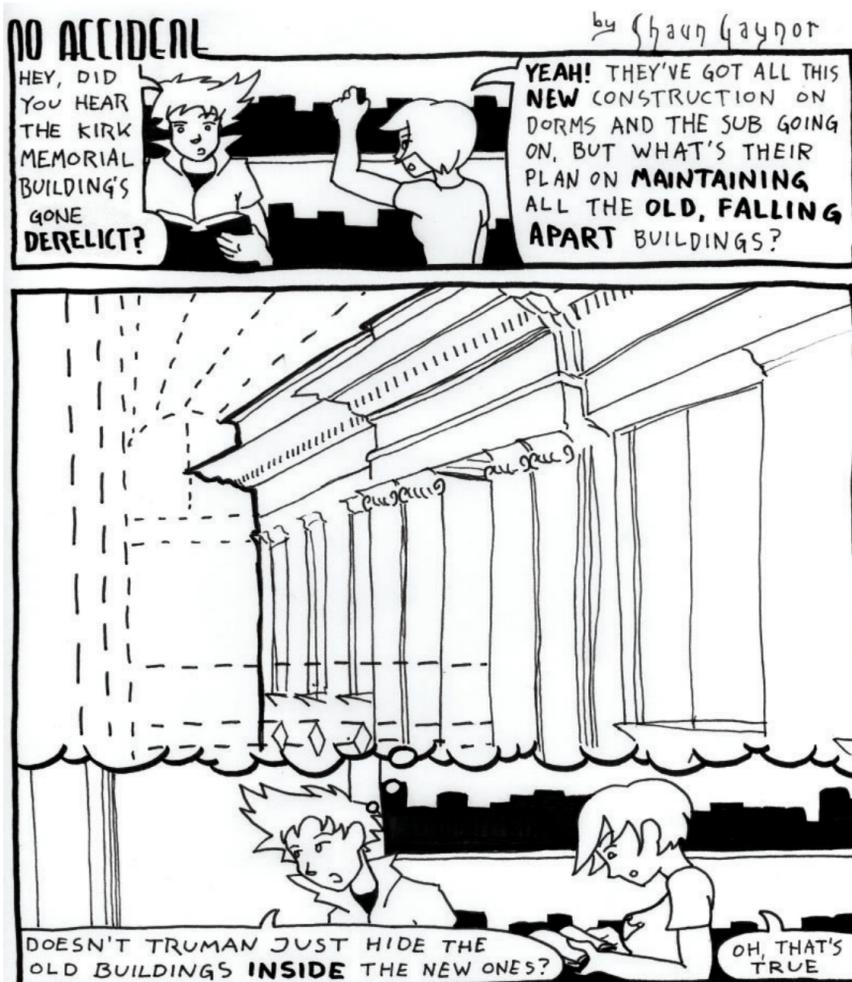
Demolishing buildings because they're merely too much trouble is a sure-fire way to lose pieces of ourselves that we'll certainly come to miss.

New York City learned this lesson the hard way in 1964 with the demolition of the monumental Penn Station. St. Louis also has suffered dearly in the last few decades from the same preference of demolition over renovation.

Closer to home, much of Kirksville's historic value has already fallen by the wayside, with corresponding costs — a quick jaunt around the downtown Square will illustrate the point — so when will Truman learn that it, too, should look out for its unique historical highlights, in spite of the upfront costs?

CORRECTIONS

- A map titled "Your Go-to-Guide to Kirksville" on page 8 of the Aug. 19 Index incorrectly indicated the location of Leisure World. It is on the south side of Missouri Highway 11, not the north. Also, because of space, many Kirksville businesses were not included in the map. Inclusion in the map was not an endorsement by the Index and did not reflect a business' decision to advertise in the Index.
- An article titled "Masten Appeals" on page 1 of the Aug. 19 Index suggested that a postponement of Masten's sentence was a result of her appeal. Delays between sentencing and surrender are common while the Bureau of Prisons determines where a criminal is to serve his or her sentence.
- An editorial feature titled "What was going on in the Index?" on page 4 of the Aug. 19 Index misidentified the volume of a story from 2006 titled "ITS cools down after summer mishap." The volume number was 98, not 97.



Letters to the Editor

Representative encourages Board of Governors student member applications

Fellow students, as your student representative to the Board of Governors, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to campus for the semester. I wish each of you success in all of your endeavors during the upcoming semester and request your help in my own.

As the sole student on the Board, it is my responsibility to represent the student opinion — your opinion — on any issue brought before the Board of Governors, the highest policy-making body at Truman. In the next few months, important decisions regarding next year's tuition, changes to the curriculum and the hiring of a new provost and vice president for academic affairs will be made. Also, construction projects across campus will move forward, and implementation of the new academic structure will continue. All of these will affect students greatly, so I welcome any opinion you have on these or other matters of interest to you.

In addition, this is my final semester of service as the student representative, so I also will be participating in the search for the next student representative. If you are interested in serving your fellow students and making a meaningful contribution to the Truman community, I would strongly encourage you to learn more about the Board of Governors and download the application for student representative at <http://governors.truman.edu>.

It is only when you speak up that the voices of the students are heard, so please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions, comments and ideas at esk814@truman.edu.

Emily S. Kiddoo
Student Representative to the
Truman Board of Governors

Senate President explains requirements for Board of Governors student position

Greetings, fellow students. Every two years a new Truman student is appointed as the student representative to the Truman State University Board of Governors. A new student representative will be chosen in the coming months, and I would like to encourage each and every one of you to consider applying for the position.

To apply, you must be a full-time student and a resident of the state of Missouri. You also must be willing and able to serve out a full two-year term beginning in January 2008 and ending in December 2009. The position is a significant time commitment, but it is well worth the effort you put in.

Additional information and the official application, due Sept. 14, can be found online or in paper form at the Center for Student Involvement. If you have any questions about the position or the application process, please contact the selection committee at truman.student.rep@gmail.com.

Matt Szcwcyk
President of Student Senate

Crump's letter lacks enough evidence to support claims

To take the mysteriously omnipresent new Index Editor in Chief Nathan Becker at his word about wanting "to keep our fingers on the pulse of Kirksville, especially the Truman community," I have duly trotted to Barnett Hall with this comment in response to the lead letter from Mr. Crump as his grousing struck me as appalling.

Even if he does want "improvements," it struck a lot of us faithful readers that Kirksville's sole even mildly liberal paper would print such a conservative letter from such an anti-pompous student.

It is sheer McCarthyism to scapegoat an unnamed professor for only a possibly true and sick disregard of student course evaluations. The man's superiors in Dixon's admirably more accountable scheme of organization indeed may be unable to sack [the professor] for such irresponsiveness. But you, Mr. Crump, cannot seriously expect either such superiors or us mere readers to support your warranted-or-not charges on behalf of a whole group of students slighted by the professor without some subject area context.

The Crump tirade looks oddly like a poor man's version of Arthur Miller's "The Crucible," with Mr. Crump as the Index's anonymity-protected witch accuser. Instead of such calumnious evasiveness, let's risk a little more depth, Index editors.

Larry Iles
Kirksville Resident

Labor unions protect workers' rights, deserve broad support

The history of our great country has been shaped by the ability of individuals to come together as a group to fight for a common cause. From the Boston Tea Party to the civil rights movement, America's strength has been its collective will to change for the better.

For more than a century, the American labor movement has been at the forefront of the struggle. The 40-hour work week, overtime pay, minimum wage, employer-paid health care and Social Security are just a few of the rights we all enjoy because workers banded together into unions to win them.

But our work is far from over. At this very moment, the American worker is under siege. The current administration's trade and labor policies are a directed attack on the middle class Americans and their ability to survive. Relaxed safety standards in the workplace are putting increased numbers of our family members in danger every day. Corporate America's dependence on cheap foreign labor not only has destroyed our country's manufacturing base but also now has put consumers' safety at risk.

The American labor movement is the one force in this country that is standing up and fighting for your rights on all of these issues. In the workplace, the statehouses and our nation's capital, the 700,000 proud members of the Laborers' International Union of North America have taken on the struggle to improve the quality of life of all Americans.

We support the Employee Free Choice Act which amends the National Labor Relations Act so employers no longer can stall recognition of a union if a majority of employees sign a card in favor of forming a union and increases penalties for employers who coerce and fire employees during organizing drives.

Laborers have an expression, "Feel the Power." That power comes from the strength of unity and sense of purpose. This Labor Day, I invite you to feel that power by joining with us in the fight for worker's rights.

Edward M. Smith
Vice President and
Midwest Regional Manager,
Laborers' International
Union of North America

INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909

Staff

Editor in Chief Nathan Becker	Opinions Editor and Online Editor Daniel Glossenger	Managing Editor Jessie Gasch
News Editor Julie Williams	Sports Editor Joe Barker	Features Editor Laura Prather
Assistant News Editors Chris Boning Diane Poelker	Assistant Sports Editor Blake Toppmeyer	Assistant Features Editor Jackie Gonzalez
News Staff Julia Hansen Shelby Higginbotham Shane Haas Sarah Smith	Sports Staff Brent Foster Kyle Magee Jack Nicholl Shawn Shinneman Ryan Turner Ben Yarnell	Features Staff Jenifer Calandra Will Holleman Abbey Snyder Jonathan Stutte Ally Summers Jessica Rapp
Design Chief Nick Wilsey	Photo Editor Jackson Groves	Copy Chief Megan Kleo
Designers Dylan Herx Erin Eisenbath Andrea Bailey	Assistant Photo Editor Jason Williams	Copy Editors Bradley Bartlett Matt Butler Alex Boles Amanda Jackson Kelsey Landhuis Zoe Martin Kelly Shute Nate Sullivan Sadye Scott-Hainchek
Advertising Manager Chris Vernaci	Photographers Mark Hardy Phil Jarrett Adam Kabins Andrew Maxwell Chris Waller	Business Manager and Collections Agent Ryan Saffer
Assistant Advertising Manager Ashley Hancock	Cartoonist Shaun Gaynor	Adviser Don Krause
Advertising Staff Katie Nevins Jessi Bays Christen Gates Arielle Morris Kelley Hulse Tina May Leah Bowring	Distribution Aaron Ely Kyle Oesch	

Letters Policy

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

The Index is published Thursdays during the school year by students at Truman State University, Kirksville, MO 63501. The first copy is free, additional copies cost \$.50 each. The production offices are located in Barnett Hall. We can be reached by phone at 660-785-4449. The Index is a designated public forum, and content of the Index is the responsibility of the Index staff. The editor in chief consults with the staff and adviser but ultimately is responsible for all decisions. Opinions of Index columnists are not necessarily representative of the opinions of the staff or the newspaper. Our View editorials represent the view of the Index through a majority vote of the Editorial Board, consisting of the editor in chief, managing editor, news editor and opinions editor. The Index reserves the right to edit submitted materials because of space limitations, repetitive subject matter, libelous content or any other reason the editor in chief deems appropriate. Submitted material includes advertisements and letters to the editor.

Advertising Policy

For up-to-date information on current rates or to inquire about the availability of classifieds in the Index, contact our advertising department at 660-785-4319. Our fax number is 660-785-7601, or you can e-mail us at indexads@truman.edu.

What was going on in the INDEX?

98 years ago ...

Vol. 1, Issue 19. July 23, 1909
The athletic field was enlarged, the main walk widened and two fountains placed in the lake during the summer term.

50 years ago ...

Vol. 49, Issue 15. July 17, 1957
"Earth broken on new Field House"
Ground was broken on what would become Pershing Building.