

OUR VIEW

Students need better safety information

Some strange things have been happening at Truman during the past few weeks, and even in our capacity as the campus newspaper, we're feeling a little bit out of the loop.

It's not often that the University's majestic brick buildings are defaced with a vague and confusing attempt at an uprising, and it's very rare that vandalism is followed by a note from individuals claiming responsibility and slamming the University mission under which they chose to study.

A few days after students volunteered to scrub the messages from building walls and restore the University to its previous state, 200 randomly selected individuals received anonymous music CDs under their residence hall room doors or in their off-campus mailboxes (see story, page 1).

The graffiti is still under investigation, but the individual responsible for delivering the CDs has been identified, and now it's clear that the two incidents were not related. But how was the student body to know? As events happened, the only e-mails students received from the University advertised surveys and course evaluations. We're not suggesting that sort of information shouldn't be dispersed to students' inboxes, but wouldn't it be nice if it was nestled below some sort of explanation for these unusual occurrences?

Even though the two strange incidents were not related and no harm has been done, we don't think we were alone in our paranoia last week. When individual students are targeted with anonymous CDs bearing cryptic messages, we think a statement should be made, if for no other reason than to assure those on the receiving end of the strange gift know the issue is being addressed, and there is no cause for worry. We don't think 200 individuals should have to ask the Department of Public

Safety for information about his or her own safety, and we don't think 5,800 other students should be kept in the dark because they weren't randomly selected. Residence Life told the Index that the individual responsible was identified April 9, and yet no information was distributed to students about the incident. In the event that something similar happens again on campus, we'd like to see a mass e-mail from either DPS or Residence Life providing us with the information we need to know and informing non-receivers of the unusual occurrence.

It's not our intent to cry wolf or instill in students fear of a situation that turned out to carry no ill effects. But as two recent anniversaries have reminded us lately—the tragedies at Virginia Tech (April 17) and at Columbine High School (April 20)—a campus is not always the safe haven students expect it to be.

Truman experienced a security breach in the residence halls last year, and the University's response of heightened security plans, automatic locking residence hall room doors and plans for a card-swipe entry system to be unveiled once all residence halls are equipped with proper technology quelled our fears.

Truman might only have seen a few ugly words and randomly distributed messages this month, but as far as everyday life goes on this campus, these happenings are still unsettling. We encourage the powers that be to take our request into consideration in the future, and we also ask students to help with that task if at all possible. You've shown your love for the University by turning out on a day off from classes to scrub our beloved buildings clean. In the same vein, if you sense something is off in your everyday life here, let the administration know about it. Knowledge is power.

CORRECTIONS

To submit corrections or to contact the editor, please e-mail index@truman.edu, call us at 660-785-4449, or send a letter to Index, 1200 Barnett Hall, Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo. 63501.

- A deck on page 6 of the April 9 issue of the Index incorrectly stated that Truman's Board of Governors will consider the Sustainability Initiative created by students and alumni. The initiative must be considered by the President's Environmental Advisory committee, after which Interim University President Darrell Krueger must approve it. If Krueger gives his approval, then the initiative could go before the Board of Governors.
- A story on page 1 of the April 9 issue of the Index incorrectly identified the Kirksville Police Department as the discoverer of the IP address for the graffiti writer. In reality, senior Casey Millburg identified the IP address.

CARTOON

BY ALEX BOLES



Letters to the Editor

Trayless benefits are proven nationwide

The arguments against ECO's "Away with the Tray" campaign in last week's "Our View" were woefully unfounded. Going trayless is a simple and effective action Truman can take to significantly reduce water and food waste. Contrary to the opinions of the Index, that no data shows the benefits of going trayless, USA Today reported that more than 500 college campuses nationwide have discovered the benefits of going trayless. Schools that do not notice a savings in money are the exception rather than the rule. Georgia Tech reports saving 3,000 gallons of water per day without trays, while New York University enjoys a food waste reduction from 4.03 oz. to 2.37 oz. Meanwhile, the University of Buffalo North anticipated saving 48,000 pounds of food waste when they began a trayless program. I could continue giving many other examples of schools that have gone trayless to save energy and money and have found success. Next time you dine in the cafeterias, make sure to ask Sodexo employees what they think about trays. You might notice that many of them forego trays when they eat, and some of them have reported that they welcome the lighter load of dishwashing. As the economy regresses, we must start learning to do more with less. Every step toward saving money makes a difference. If 500 other campuses each have trayless programs, there's probably something to it. No, we don't know precisely how much money and energy traylessness will save Truman, but the trial run next year in Ryle will give us the chance to gather specific data. Yes, traylessness is a little less convenient. But what can we possibly lose, compared to what we could gain?

Environmental Campus Organization

Amnesty International offers needed awareness

I was delighted to read from the bold Index April 1 report that TSU and Kirksville Amnesty International vast chapter's more than 200 plus audience locally got a full report for the film SUB and protest meeting over the evil child starvation and political repressions today going on in North Korea. And I wish to hence salute TSU medical student activists and KHS AI chapters for also ensuring alike the meeting was so fantastic a protest! Well done. Please, however, extreme right wingers on campus and in your circulation area as indeed far as La Plata, don't think that Lauren Walter and her TSU AI comrades, thereby, accept your faintly disguised bad Cold War agenda for a bloody invasion of communist North Korea by the U.S.-garrisoned South! That was not the rally's intent!

Even here in the UK where I am on historical research, such is the explosion now of the whole of the Korean cinema new industry exploitingly in brilliance, I am see-

ing magnificent new South Korean films. And they are all saying they only want food and human rights in the colder North!

Yet, however, they are also, loudly, saying they also don't want Obama to do a disastrous Afghanistan militarism in the North. The films in these documentaries instead all plead for no force, a peaceful drive under non-corrupt democracy for both halves of the historically once-whole Korea. Unity and peace, no Yankee arms.

*Larry Iles
Kirksville resident*

Nuclear dangers remain unheeded by residents

With many people's minds only on our economy, I'm afraid they might not be aware of a financial and health danger in our state. This danger is from AmerenUE plan on building a second nuclear power plant near their first one. They have estimated the cost at 6 billion dollars, however, this cost could be exceeded several times as it was on their first plant. They are now running ads telling you that it will result in only a small rate increase. Don't be fooled as this is only a wild guess, and they are not telling you what the cost to decommission their first plant will be and what it will cost you in more rate increases. Don't think your homeowner policy will cover you from any dangers from the plant, as they don't cover this. This should tell you how dangerous they are. With the need for alternative energy don't be fooled into thinking nuclear is the answer, as it is far too dangerous and expensive. There are dangers in this form of energy from production to disposal. There is no site for its disposal as they have been promising for years. Many suggested sites are near fault lines. This is resulting in the storage on their premises making them a target for terrorists attacks as well as the plants' waste water, sand and air samples are under federal control and you know how dependable the federal government is. There are many other safer forms of energy than nuclear. Therefore, I hope you will not be deceived by AmerenUE ads and will instead contact state and local officials to stop this plant and its wishes to pass on its building costs before its completion.

*Louis J. Anesi
Centralia resident*

Public speaking petition proves to be great success

One measure of a great university, in my estimation, is ongoing curriculum review. Particularly this academic year, we were given some stimulating thoughts to ponder. Renewed attention to Public Speaking in the Liberal Studies Program and its potential loss, prompted me to engage in research I might not have otherwise: research that has resulted in two convention papers being accepted to the National Communication Association Annual Convention to take place in Chicago in

November. I will be joined by five colleagues and three undergraduate students in presenting our efforts to keep Public Speaking at the center of the liberal arts curriculum at Truman. In this endeavor, I have been gratified by the number of faculty and students across the disciplines also desiring to keep COMM 170 the premier vehicle for public speaking instruction. To illustrate, in a recent survey of faculty at Truman, resulting in a 17 percent return rate, faculty indicated a preference to keep the COMM 170 requirement by a ratio of 4:1. Further, student petition efforts by the NCA Student Club here at Truman yielded 962 student signatures in favor of keeping the COMM 170 Public Speaking LSP requirement. Please note more students took part in this petition drive than did students (1,001) in the curriculum survey. Neither faculty nor students were asked in the curriculum survey about keeping COMM 170. Had this occurred, I fully expect the outcome would have been analogous to other survey outcomes: largely a preference for the current curriculum. The only case made against the course was the rigor of our test-out procedures. In good faith, the Communication Department is reviewing and refining the test-out process. Although no survey or for that matter test-out procedure is perfect, the combined voices from both faculty and students minimally indicate concern over the potential loss of public speaking and optimally a desire to keep Public Speaking as an LSP requirement. As curriculum proposals are likely to emerge in days to come, I would respectfully ask my colleagues in UGC and Faculty Senate to give earnest heed to the concerns of faculty and students alike.

*Barry C. Poyner, Ph.D.
professor of communication*

Students deserve kudos for graffiti cleanup

Truman Staff Council would like to say a big thank you to the wonderful student volunteers who gathered together April 7 to help our hard-working Physical Plant employees begin the arduous task of cleaning the graffiti from the buildings we work in every day. We know that removing this kind of defacing can be time-consuming and exhausting and is not part of a Physical Plant employee's normal workday. We also realize that the caring students who showed up to work could have taken the entire day off since there were no classes due to the Student Research Conference. Instead they volunteered to work alongside staff and together got a lot accomplished! Hats off to senior Casey Millburg who rallied and organized the student work force! We, as Truman's Staff Council, are proud of our beautiful University buildings and grounds, and especially proud of everyone that demonstrated that pride and worked hard to keep them that way. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

*Linda Davenport
Truman Staff Council*

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