

## OUR VIEW

### Trayless dining is not proven waste solution

“Away with the tray.” If you have paid attention to the goings-on of our campus at all this past year, you’ve probably heard this slogan.

The campaign to make the dining halls go trayless began at the beginning of the school year and is spearheaded by the Environmental Campus Organization. ECO has put a huge amount of time and effort into the trayless dining campaign, and it has paid off. At the beginning of next year, Ryle Hall cafeteria will be used as a trayless dining guinea pig.

Although ECO’s campaign seems to be a huge win for the environmentally concerned members of the campus community, the Editorial Board is concerned that the real benefits of going trayless are hard to measure — so difficult, in fact, that other schools that have gone trayless are unable to track whether going trayless has reduced cost for students and Sodexo. According to a story in the April 2 issue of the Index, Pittsburg State University, a school that went trayless at the beginning of the 2008-09 academic school year, has not been able to decide whether “away with the tray” has reduced costs because of the inflation of food prices.

We believe ECO’s heart is in the right place by campaigning to go trayless, but that doesn’t change the fact that there is still no evidence that going trayless really does cut down on food waste or water waste (see story, page 3). Not until Ryle goes trayless in the fall will hard evidence either supporting or dismissing the trayless dining option be tabulated. Considering the huge amount of time, money and effort ECO has put into the “Away with the Tray” campaign, we’re not quite

sure whether ECO’s decision to exert a great deal of its resources to making the dining halls trayless is the smartest decision considering there is no real statistical evidence that shows going trayless is a win for the environment.

According to a story in the April 2 issue of the Index, Sodexo calculates that 25 to 30 percent of students already are going trayless, however, there “has been no documented change in water usage.” Since the University has no way of measuring the water saved by going trayless, once again, there is no statistical evidence that cafeterias without trays are really cutting down on waste.

And there are other signs that trayless dining is not an automatic win for the campus community. There could be possible job losses at Sodexo because of a lack of trays and extra dishes to wash. Dennis Markeson, Truman Sodexo general manager, said that going trayless will create work for Sodexo employees — cafeteria tables will have to

be washed more often because of dropped food that was once caught by the trays. We wonder if this will create backups and unnecessary hassle in dining lines as card-swiping Sodexo employees are forced to dash between table-cleaning and card-swiping duties.

Although we applaud ECO members for their hands-on approach and hard work as they try to make our campus a less environmentally damaging place, we just don’t know if the “Away with the Tray” campaign is the best way for our campus to become the most environmentally friendly place it can be.

**There is no real statistical evidence that going trayless is a win for the environment.**

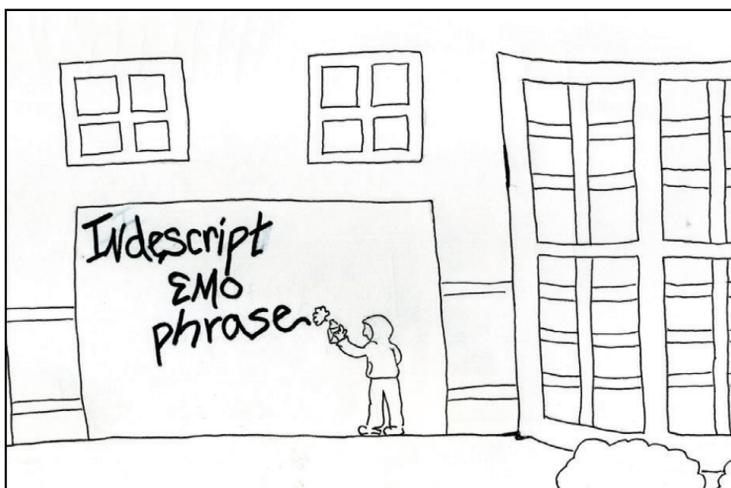
## CORRECTIONS

To submit corrections or to contact the editor, please e-mail [index@truman.edu](mailto: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 story on page 15 of the April 2 issue of the Index incorrectly identified the score of the Truman’s men’s tennis team match versus Missouri Valley College as 7-2. The actual score was 6-3.
- In the April 2 issue of the Index, a story on page 1 stated that Brett Knight was charged with first degree trespassing. Knight was not formally charged and was only taken into protective custody.
- In the April 2 issue of the Index, a letter to the editor from David Garth, associate professor of mathematics, and Jonathan Smith, associate professor of geography, contained an incorrect change in reference to moral principles associated with language about sexual orientation inclusiveness on a city fair housing ordinance. The letter read, “Although some object to these principles, often the objections are based on morality that has been widely accepted by most people for millenia.” when the sentence should have read, “While some object to these principles, often they are based on morality that has been widely held by most people for millenia.” In the letter’s intended form, the principles, not the objections, are based on widely accepted morality.

## CARTOON

BY ALEX BOLES



## Letters to the Editor

### Index offers needed coverage of crisis

It was good to see the Index coverage of the documentary Crossing, on the devastating North Korean human rights crisis. I’d like to commend especially our local community sponsors of this tremendous event, in particular the very dedicated student members of the Kirksville High School and Truman State University chapters of Amnesty International and of the American Medical Students Association.

In addition, many thanks and overdue recognition to Julie Lochbaum whose Center for Learning and Development gave a grant to provide financial assistance needed for this event, as well as subsequent support. The documentary had been produced by the organization LINK whose representatives helped conduct discussion and gave out further information on the human rights crisis in North Korea. The evening following this documentary was also a significant presentation by Susan Scholte, head of the North Korean Freedom Coalition, sponsored by the American Medical Students Association.

Both events brought to public attention a devastating human rights crisis, largely unrecognized by our national media. Over the last few years, the public is now regularly informed of the nuclear bomb technology and capability now wielded by North Korea and belated efforts to draw our attention from the all-consuming war in Iraq to the need for mediation with North Korean authorities. But international relations with North Korea have excluded any consideration of the horrific crimes against humanity within North Korea in which nearly 3 million have been killed up to now. Even today, among the 200,000 in prison camps there is an average of 42 people killed daily. More

than a million North Koreans died from starvation in the mid 1990s. Nowadays, about 25 percent go hungry and almost 40 percent of North Korea remains “chronically malnourished.” About 300,000 North Korean refugees have succeeded in escaping and have sought refuge in China. But, as Susan Scholte explained, for China, North Koreans seeking refuge in China are considered economic migrants, not refugees.

Most refugees are imprisoned and tortured by North Korean police and army authorities and an increasing number are being executed. 80 percent of the women end up as victims of trafficking. It is disturbing, that in the re-emergence of frequently debilitating cold war preoccupations, the main concern with the nuclear capabilities of emerging countries renders us myopic, shortsighted, in fact, blind, to a massive human rights crisis.

No mainstream media attention has been given to the terrifying physical persecution of simple innocent families and their children. As we have frequently as a people joined the rest of the world in acts of solidarity and humanity, it is inspiring to see our young high school and university students educate us. Susan Scholte has indicated that we can all help by contacting our congressional representatives and our Senators and by supporting the principles of the North Korean Human Rights Act. Thanks very much for your consideration, once again.

Betty McClane-Iles  
professor of French

### Biology faculty presence lacking at lecture

Last Tuesday night I heard Carl Werner, author of the Evolution: the Grand Experiment. I was thoroughly

unimpressed with Werner’s arguments against evolution, as were a significant number of the students present.

The reason I use the word “students” in this case, is because, to my knowledge, there was not a single biology professor, possibly even science professor present at the presentation. Students were left to defend natural selection, speciation and mutation on their own. As bright as Truman undergrads are, and as good of a job as they did in defending evolution, I think most would agree that our biology faculty could have defended Evolution and refute Werner much more effectively.

The only assumption I can make on the lack of science faculty present, is that they were either not informed of it, or that they regarded Werner’s presentation as simply not worth the time. If the latter case is true for any science faculty here, I must say I am disappointed. Here is why: if so much as one student left the room with less of an opinion of evolution because of something that could have been answered by a biology professor, I feel as though the faculty neglected their job.

It is the job of everyone to form their opinions with evidence from both sides of the debate. However, I felt like I only got half of the debate Tuesday night, and that it was the duty of our biology professors to provide the other half of the debate as well as defend one of the cornerstones of their field. So, please inform me, Truman biology staff, why were you not present at Werner’s presentation?

Ryan Campbell  
sophomore

## INDEX

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### 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, and additional copies cost 50 cents 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 Editorial Board through a majority vote. The Editorial Board consists of the editor in chief, managing editor, news editor, copy chief and opinions editor. The Index reserves the right to edit submitted material 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.

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## WEB POLL

Do you have an iPhone?



This week’s question:

Do you use a tray when dining in the cafeterias?

Vote online at [trumanindex.com](http://trumanindex.com)