

## OUR VIEW

## Academic changes deserve reflection

With the latest round of academic reorganization and curriculum overhauls, the ongoing University changes are getting hard to keep track of. But one benefit of all this restructuring (see stories, page 1) is that it provides an opportunity for comparison between the seemingly never-ending shuffling of the University's colleges and departments, and the revamping of its liberal studies curriculum.

The current structure change, which divides the super-sized College of Arts and Sciences into three smaller colleges grouped by discipline, is nothing compared to the overhaul that took place in 2007. That academic reorganization bears a stronger resemblance to the curriculum changes that soon will take place in terms of how they reflect the needs and preferences of the University community.

When former University President Barbara Dixon began her quest for academic restructuring, the committee studying the issue conducted a survey of faculty, staff and administrators to determine which model they preferred. The majority of those surveyed chose the model that consisted of a.) No change, or b.) Minor changes (see the Feb. 8, 2007 issue of the Index). But Dixon chose to exercise her executive privilege, selecting a completely different model that replaced the academic divisions with the now-somewhat-familiar College of Arts and Sciences, College of Health Science and Education and College of Business.

This decision caused a stink and rightly so. The drastic reorganization benefited few, inconvenienced many and was a huge headache for some. It didn't improve students' academic experiences, learning

ability or any other aspect of education, which should be the driving impulse for any major program the University undertakes. In short, it was a huge waste of time. Even now that more than a year has passed since the restructuring went into effect, faculty and administration still have kinks to work out — this latest minor "reorganization" is evidence of that.

The current curriculum overhaul at least has its heart in the right place, but that doesn't mean it will be any more popular than academic restructuring was. It's true that the University's liberal studies curriculum could use some improvement, and spending time and energy to figure out how to make it better will have a positive effect on students' educational experiences. But when students and faculty were surveyed about which model they preferred for a liberal studies curriculum, the majority supported only minor changes. Sound familiar?

But in contrast to the reorganization debacle, so far it seems like the administration will respect the University community's opinions and refrain from making more major overhauls in the near future, which probably is a good thing. It's not that we think the University should never change anything — on the contrary, it's reassuring to know that opportunities for improvement are always being sought. We simply think the University administration needs to stop seeing change as sudden and dramatic and view it more as a gradual, continual process.

And before spending a lot of time enacting a change, the administration needs to decide whether it is a case of change for change's sake or actually an improvement to the Truman experience.

## 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 teaser on page 15 of the Feb. 26 issue of the Index said the women's tennis team won nine out of 11 flights at the Principia tournament when in actuality, they won nine of 12.
- In a story on page 15 of the Feb. 26 issue of the Index, Brian Brown was identified as a junior. In reality, he was a sophomore during the time period the story recounted.
- In a story on page 18 of the Feb. 26 issue of the Index, Damon Morris was incorrectly listed as a third-place finisher in the 800 meter run. He placed third in the 600 yard run.
- In the Around the 'Ville section on page 9 the of the Feb. 26 issue of the Index, Phi Mu Alpha was incorrectly identified as Alpha Phi Mu. The time and place also were incorrect. The event took place in Baldwin Hall and it was an all day event.

## CARTOON

BY ERIN NEUMAN



## Letters to the Editor

## Eating disorders coverage is too simplistic

I am writing in response to Jackie Gonzalez's column regarding Eating Disorders Awareness Week in the Feb. 26 issue of the Index. Last week was EDA Week, sponsored by the women of Alpha Sigma Gamma. Each year ASG strives to organize events that convey the seriousness and prevalence of the illnesses. Although Gonzalez makes a valid claim in asserting that society as a whole has a misperception of eating disorders and whom they affect, she makes blatantly false, unnecessary claims against the efforts put forth by ASG.

As a co-chair for EDA Week, I know the work and dedication that went into planning the events to ensure its equal representation of both the men and women fighting these illnesses. Gonzalez stated that our theme, "Measure your heart, not your waist" is just another female-oriented campaign geared at redefining beauty. Do men have waists? Are men beautiful? The answer obviously is yes on both counts.

Gonzalez claimed to have walked by an event table to find a display covered with almost-naked models, and she seemingly accounted for only female models, not any men, during her brief scan of the event. This event, called "Splattering the Stereotypes," had an equal number of male and female models on the boards, for which I, and others, personally can account for.

Gonzalez also mentioned that EDA Week involved salons, women's magazines and smoothies, all of which apparently ostracize men. Do men not get their hair cut and/or drink smoothies, shakes or coffee? And to clarify yet another false statement, women's magazines had nothing to do with EDA Week. During our coffee house, individuals wrote letters to media outlets such as Playboy, Sports Illustrated, Cosmopolitan and more to protest the magazines' exploitation of the human body. The last time I checked, Sports Illustrated and Playboy didn't qualify as women's magazines.

We greatly appreciated Gonzalez's generosity in her donation to the

National Eating Disorders Association. However, my advice to Gonzalez is to fully examine a situation and perhaps attend the events before publishing such information. As she stated, men definitely suffer from eating disorders, and EDA Week addressed that situation, which she would have realized if she had taken the time to research. If she had attended the panel discussion or even spoken to someone who had, she would have realized that the topic of eating disorders among men was addressed.

I do not have a problem with opinions. However, I do have a problem with negative, incorrect information being published regarding this philanthropic effort. As Gonzalez stated, men absolutely remain in the minority in the fight against eating disorders, which needs to change. However, the manner in which she approached her column definitely isn't the way to bring about such change.

Alicia Collins  
Senior

## 24-hour campus is not a feasible option

Molly Skyles' Feb. 26 column on the convenience of campus' service hours obviously was the product of self-absorption and too much time on her hands. As a part-time employee at the Student Recreation Center, I can tell you from experience that no one is going to willingly volunteer to work between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. Opening and closing shifts are enough of a challenge, without adding a "graveyard shift" in between. Plus, if the University plans on extending the Rec's hours, that will mean increasing the number of employees and money put toward energy bills — neither of which are budget-friendly. Patrons sometimes forget that we're students, too — we have classes, tests, extracurriculars, scholarship hours and social lives of our own to deal with.

Skyles proposes the alternative of simply hiring more students "who would be grateful to have a job that they would suck it up and work

through the night." My question to her is, Would you be willing to do that for \$7.05 an hour? If so, maybe we should hire you to work the graveyard shift. My point is, as a campus of more than 6,000 undergrads, we cannot change the facilities' operating hours to accommodate the needs of one student. So do your studying in another lounge, go for a run outside, and hit up McDonald's when the Student Union Building is not open. And I don't suggest waiting til 2 a.m. to study for your tests in the future.

Jennifer Talaski  
Junior

## "Great Porn" debate will offer no real insight

I see the Index as disproportionate when its ultra-conservative rivals tout "The Porn Debate" all over campus. The title of this event is a misnomer. Having previously seen Ron Jeremy participate in similar debates before, I have no doubt the erotic male actor ex-teacher will win handsily. This is because of his libertarian rationality and non-didactic performance. On the other hand, his clerical opponent will leave out all the reformed New Testament defense of Christ.

Indeed, I would love to see Jeremy's nominally religious opponents be asked why they waste so much time targeting the adult film industry, yet are so quiet about the senseless killing of women and children done throughout the world, as well as the political corruption that pervades our Congress.

I also wonder if anyone on the progressive side will have the guts to ask Jeremy about his participation in the pornography industry. After all, the same industries that profit from the films Jeremy participates in make millions of dollars over questionable slasher films. I ask Jeremy if his profession that has the same quality of desire between the sexes as George Sand and D.H. Lawrence provided in the printed word.

Larry Iles  
Kirksville Resident

## INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909

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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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## What was going on in the

## INDEX?

14 years ago – March 16, 1995

A Harvard research poll found that roughly half of all Truman (then NMSU) students were binge drinkers, and that those results were similar to the national statistics.