

OUR VIEW

No one to blame for tournament location

Orange safety vests will be flying off the shelves this week and men and women with guns will be coming to Kirksville. Saturday marks the beginning of deer rifle season and hunters from across the country — yes, the country — will descend on our little town for a weekend of hunting. Hotel rooms throughout the city and nearby communities are booked solid for the weekend and have been for months.

And that's a problem for the women's soccer team.

See, the Bulldogs qualified for the NCAA Tournament on Monday, thanks to their stellar 15-3-2 record. They earned the second seed in the South Central Region and the right to host some action in the Big Dance — a right they won't be exercising.

The hunters have claimed all the available hotel rooms, leaving Truman no choice but to pass on hosting duties. The Bulldogs had to pass on the chance to play in front of their home crowd in a big game because the city of Kirksville simply cannot accommodate the onslaught of hunters, two women's soccer teams and their entourage of fans. Instead the team will head to Texas to try to win a national title.

Some people have begun pointing fingers at Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering saying he should have planned for this and taken some preemptive action to ensure the game would be played here. According to them, Wollmering doesn't care about women's soccer because he didn't reserve hotel rooms before the hunters. It's unfortunate that the women have to travel to Texas, but there really is no one to blame in this situation, let alone Wollmering.

For one thing, how could he have predicted this would happen? Yes, the women's team is historically good —

it is one of the best athletic programs at Truman and is competitive every year. However, a few more losses this year and the Bulldogs easily could have slipped to the three-seed. If they dropped just one spot in the regional, this is a moot point. As they say in sports, anything could happen. A few bounces one way, an injury here or there and suddenly a good team drops to the cellar. It happens. No one can predict the outcome of a season.

What were Wollmering and the rest of the athletic department supposed to do? Are they supposed to call a hotel in August and ask it to set aside 30 or so rooms during hunting season in case the women's soccer team

Was Wollmering supposed to call a hotel in August and ask it to set aside 30 or so rooms during hunting season?

earns one of the top two seeds in their region? No hotel would do that. Unlike potential sports teams, hunters are guaranteed business. Year in and year out they come to Northeast Missouri to hunt. No hotel owner in his or her right mind would turn away surefire customers for hypothetical ones.

We don't blame the hunters for coming here — far from it. We welcome the hunters. They are good for Kirksville as a whole. They come here and pump their money into our economy through a variety of businesses. Would the NCAA Regional do the same thing? Absolutely. But what if hunters are turned away one year and don't come back?

Of course we would like to travel mere minutes to cheer on the women's soccer team. It would be exciting for both the University and the athletic department. Now, we'll just have to keep tabs on the team down in Texas from afar. Instead of pointing fingers in a situation for which there is really no blame, we should turn our attention to supporting the women in their quest for a national title.

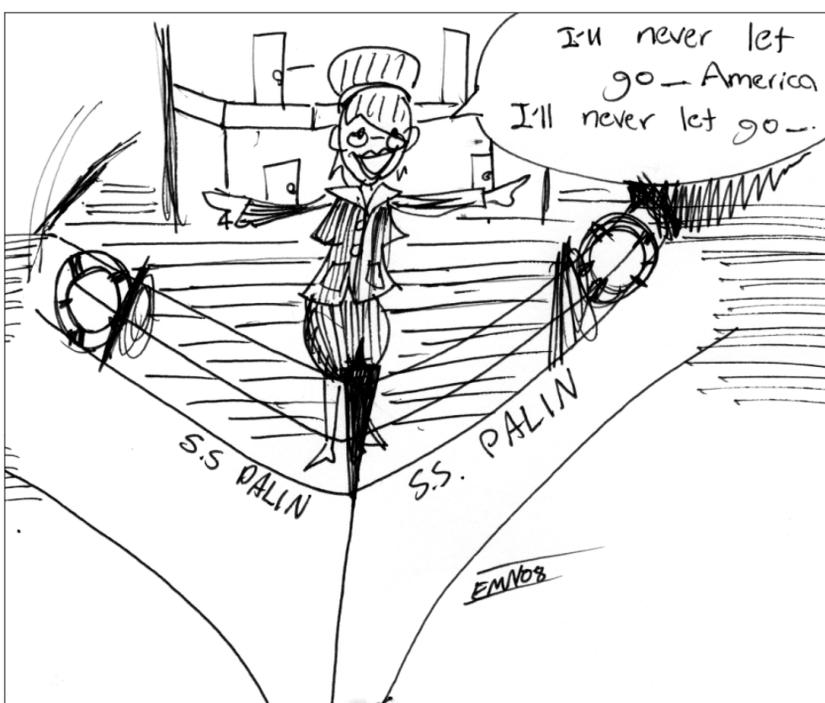
CORRECTIONS

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.

- The photo of senior Danna Kelly on page 15 of the Nov. 6 issue of the Index was taken by Brian O'Shaughnessy.
- The photo of sophomore Anton Bernard on page 20 of the Nov. 6 issue of the Index was taken by Mayank Dhungana.

CARTOON

BY ERIN NEUMAN



Letters to the Editor

Celebrate America Recycles Day by recycling

We live in a disposable economy. The ease of tossing trash into the garbage overshadows the negative environmental consequences of such casual actions. America Recycles Day, Nov. 15, is the perfect opportunity to evaluate our wasteful habits and positively re-approach the subject of recycling. By taking simple steps toward responsible disposal, an astonishing majority of our trash can be diverted from landfills back into the market.

Recycling can be done free of cost and with relative ease on or off Truman's campus. For on-campus recycling, green and blue receptacles are located in high traffic areas in all campus buildings. Additional blue bins can be obtained from the Truman Recycling Center or Student Senate. For off-campus residents, Veolia includes recycling services with weekly trash pick-up at no extra charge. Materials just have to be placed curbside in a clear plastic bag. In either situation, no sorting is necessary. It's important to rinse containers and never throw in half-empty beverage containers or any other dirty products (napkins, pizza boxes, etc.).

Recyclables also can be dropped off at the Recycling Center on LaHarpe and Franklin between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Both Veolia and the Recycling Center accept all paper, plastic, cardboard and aluminum cans, but plastics sent to Truman's Recycling Center must be marked with either a 1 or a 2. The Recycling Center also accepts all glass, printer cartridges and bound books.

Recycling isn't our only option. It's also important to reduce waste production and reuse items as much as possible. If you are interested in becoming more actively involved on campus with environmentally responsible organizations, there are the Environmental Campus Organization, Bulldog Biodiesel and the Composting Project that encourage hands-on educational activities related to sustainable living. Remember to reduce, reuse and recycle. It's economical, ecological and easy, and it starts with you.

*Leslie Moss, senior and
Christie Sancken, junior*

Women's soccer team deserves more support

Congratulations to the women's soccer team and to head coach Mike Cannon for yet another trip to the playoffs. Unfortunately, "trip" means "trip." Instead of hosting the first round rested and in front of friendly Truman fans, the team likely will travel to Texas. Players, their families and boosters will lose out.

Despite the Index headline

"Deer Season Hurts Women's Soccer Team's Chances of Hosting Tournament Games" (trumanindex.com, Nov. 6, 2008), the accompanying story makes it clear that Truman's athletic director bet against the team's success by failing to secure the hotel rooms necessary to host the opening round. These student athletes work hard, and other students tax themselves \$100 a year to support Truman athletics. Where is the support from the athletic director's office for this winning team, for their seven-time MIAA Coach of the Year and for Truman soccer fans?

*Paul Parker
Professor of Political Science*

Attack letter was misguided, unwarranted

I run the risk of giving College Republicans spokesperson ('Letters to the Editor,' Nov. 6) Teresa Perkins a more "entertaining letter" than she might want, given her position of offended gravity at my critique of her organization's admitted tactic of encouraging students to vote "in their home town" or her group's newfound solicitude for we of Amnesty International or students in Prism and Planned Parenthood. These are organizations in which the College Republicans have not been noticeable in the past, but that should not discourage their future participation.

Nonetheless, I respond to Perkins' letter. In her letter of group defense, Perkins persists in the now repudiated tactic of gross distortion that her senior conservatives have imbibed so badly from talk shows like The O'Reilly Factor.

One: 'The constant barrage of letters' slur charge is odd. For a reality check, I have read in the Index only two anti-College Republican letters published during the entire semester, so who does she really have in mind? The slur charge is also odd, given the posting of a happily second supplement shown leading literally such a barrage in the recent election, in the front entrance of our nearest GOP-poster-sporting beauty spa salon, itself on a traffic light corner and indeed "entertaining."

Two: The suggestive word "insinuation," which she sinisterly throws up is attributable to her own imagination. I nowhere critiqued Prism or any student progressive group whatsoever in the letter. Her Republican concern for gay and bisexual rights is welcome, if unprecedented. I dare, unobsequiously, to suggest that she has a thus constructive word with her defeated state representative candidate Thom Van Vleck about his constant barrage of homophobic and anti-feminist literature and TV ads before she adopts any such pride stance. Lastly: If the worst she can

further personally castigate is aspersions about myself and the revival of local progressive organizations such as Amnesty International, by trying to imply mutual decadence after such a massive repudiation of her local party, she plainly is in an even worse planet Mars outer-space atmosphere than we thought. But again, accuracy lovers can note that in the three years I had been elected by Truman students and Kirksville AI Community Liaison Office, 2003 to 2007, we had more than 1,000 participants at presentations with Strossen ACLU and Sister Helen Prejean — the famed anti-death penalty opponent, and a membership list of more than 100 on campus alone.

*Larry Iles
Kirksville resident*

Registration based on credit hours is fair

In his Nov. 6 column, Tyler Retherford made a fairly legitimate point about the disadvantage of being an underclassman when it comes to registering for classes. Retherford expressed concern that students who could not take dual credit or Advanced Placement classes during high school had to wait longer to register for classes because they did not come into Truman with non-University credit hours. As a student who entered the University with 50 credit hours and graduated in three years, I am a little annoyed with this particular complaint.

Although I acknowledge that not everyone had access to college credits during high school, it's certainly unfair to say those who did should have to wait to register for classes. Students with dual or advanced-placement credits already have some college classes under their belts, and those credits are legitimate. These students are more likely to graduate early or on time than those who entered without credits, therefore they should be treated as upperclassmen simply because they are. According to Retherford, "Counting non-University credit hours allows students to cheat this system, making life unnecessarily harder for students who really need the classes that are filling up even faster than usual."

I guess I don't understand how a student who entered Truman with credit and has senior standing is different from a student who entered Truman without credit and has senior standing. An upperclassman by credit is the same as an upperclassman by age. My advice to Retherford is to be proactive and meet with professors whose classes he would like to take. Professors often will hold a spot for you if you have a legitimate reason to be in that class. Instead of complaining about the system, take advantage of it.

*Jenifer Calandra
alumna*

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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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