

INDEX
EDITORIAL

OUR VIEW

Welcome back, Darrell Krueger

Dear Interim President Krueger, Hi again. It's been more than 15 years since you worked at the University as the dean of instruction and vice president of Academic Affairs, and a lot has changed. Campus has expanded with the addition of a new science building, a student recreation center and a new residence hall. Several buildings have been remodeled (Ophelia Parish, Violette Hall, Missouri Hall, Blanton, Nason and Brewer Halls) and one no longer is in use (Kirk Memorial). The football field has been outfitted with synthetic turf.

The University has changed in more subtle ways, too. We're operating under a new academic structure and we're still in the process of figuring out what exactly that entails. A consultant report determined that the University is no fun and that enrollment will steadily decline unless the University does something to improve its image. Complications with MOHELA mean it's less likely that Pershing Building actually will receive its much-needed and highly anticipated renovations (see story, page 1). As interim president, these are a few of the issues you'll have to deal with.

But it's not all doom and gloom. The University does have several factors working in its favor. Residence halls that are in desperate need of renovations are getting them. The student-to-faculty ratio is 16:1, attractive to prospective students but less so once they arrive and realize that the low ratio means that their professor will notice if they start cutting class. The capital campaign has been successful, allowing the University to stay out of the red. Students are highly

involved in on-campus activities, demonstrating pride in their school and a willingness to participate. Capitalizing on these positive aspects will help the University maintain the size of its student body and improve its reputation.

We realize you won't be able to change everything in a year, and we don't expect you to try. Just keep the ship afloat until the next president takes over. Spend time with students. Apparently they like presidents who are willing to get their hands dirty. Students don't bite, but they do get upset when they think they're being ignored — just ask Barbara Dixon. Members of the administration say they'd like to see us

You're the big cheese right now, and we're counting on you to move us in the right direction.

take up residence as the nation's premier public liberal arts and sciences university. There's no reason that vision should come to a standstill until the next permanent president is selected. Get the wheels in motion. That said, we see no reason why you shouldn't be involved in selecting your successor. Sometimes the fresh eye of an "outsider" offers the best insight.

It's a tough job, being the president of a university. Being the interim president is probably even harder — sort of like being a substitute teacher. But hang in there, President Krueger. Your connections to the University make us confident in your ability to do a good job. Although the chances are good that you won't see a major University shake-up during your short time with us, don't be afraid to speak up. You're the big cheese right now, and we're counting on you to move us in the right direction.

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 story on page 1 of the Oct. 2 issue of the Index misspelled the name of Andrew Kling, a representative at the Adair County Democratic Headquarters.

CARTOON

BY MEGAN KLCO



Letters to the Editor

Assaults on McClanahan's character are uncalled for

My household has received three unsought pieces of literature from Thom Van Vleck, the rival candidate to our female incumbent state legislator, even though one would have thought even the densest of his supporters would have questioned the usefulness of such wastrel outlays, given we have at least three posters already placed up in endorsement of his rival, Rebecca McClanahan.

Although it doesn't bother me that I disagree with the policy stances of his first leaflet, as it's fair game for his ultra-anti-domestic government philosophy. I wish to bring to the wider community's reflection the two most recent leaflets that go way beyond the civilized pale before it is too late. As for all his talk of unspecified "values," Van Vleck goes in for what language-cogni-

zant members of the University's English department have told me is called "essentialist abuse." In plainer lingo, Van Vleck is scapegoating McClanahan's humanity and basic decency.

So why, Sir, do you permit one third of each of these two latest leaflets to not just attack your rival's policies, but totally lay into "Her" — and I quote "Her" — repetitively as if it's damnable just to be a woman in public life! An effect of calculated abuse, visually exacerbated by a picture of her in black and white, degradingly, near your own rather overweight white male colored photo!

Now, none of this, surely, in the early 21st century is the kind of "people valuing people" respect our town professes to stand for in any regards of values, family or otherwise, is it, Sir?

Worse, it is not only former Truman nursing professor McClanahan who publicly considers this as "not even

recognizable of me to myself." But is it, I ask you, recognizable of the finest traditions of your own once Lincolnnesque and Eisenhowerian political party? Your election campaign manager, after all, ran as the candidate last time, and never resorted to essentialist scapegoating.

Lincoln and Eisenhower with their respective, often difficult Southern and UK sweethearts and mistresses, in those less values-focused rougher war days, both still treated their ladies as intelligent, sentient beings. As today's more vulgar GOP openly boasts "it has forced TV stations to withdraw ads it considers untruthful in low standards," can one hope we will get withdrawal and bonfiring of your own anti-women ads, Mr. Van Vleck?

Larry Iles
 Kirksville resident

INDEX		
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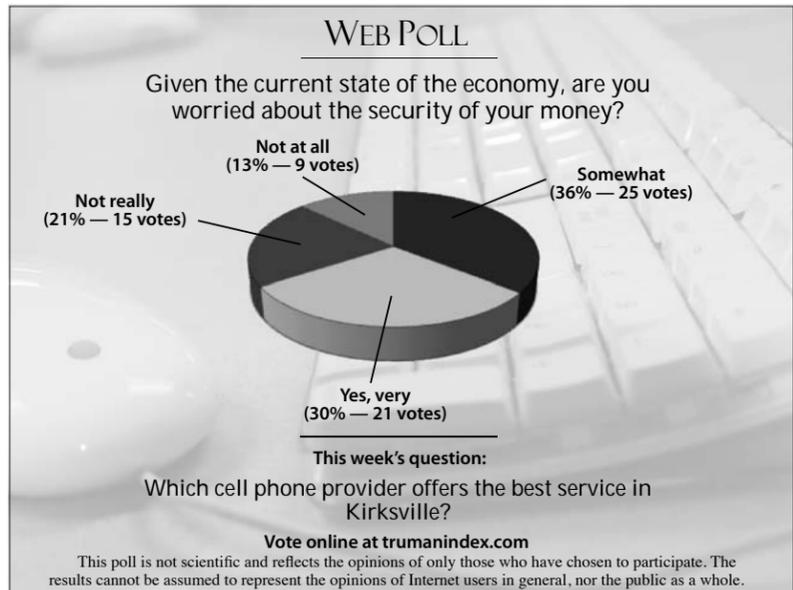
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Editorial Policy

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?

10 years ago - October 8, 1998

The Bulldogs football team upset previously unbeaten Emporia State University (Kan.), scoring 19 unanswered points in six minutes during the fourth quarter.