

## OUR VIEW

### Dixon should have to earn consultant pay

Last week, President Barbara Dixon announced she would be resigning from the University on Oct. 15. It turns out she won't be leaving empty-handed.

The Board of Governors and Dixon agreed to a severance contract that will make her a consultant for the University. For her new gig, Dixon will be compensated with a \$205,000 salary. A six-figure paycheck is not a bad parting gift.

When Dixon announced her resignation, she told the Index that for the first time in 40 years, she had no plans for the future. She made it sound like she was heading back to Michigan to retire. But before Dixon starts watching reruns of Matlock, Murder, She Wrote and the Price is Right she has work to do. She has to earn her robust salary — retirement should wait.

#### The new consultant job simply cannot be a figurehead position.

This new consultant job simply cannot be a figurehead position that does nothing. To us, it seems like the position was created simply so Dixon could collect the remainder of her salary (plus some) she will lose by not finishing out her sixth year as President. Ultimately, the students at Truman and the taxpayers of Missouri are paying Consultant Dixon. This money could have many, many other uses. We think it would be a waste of money to have Dixon collect paycheck after paycheck without doing anything besides resigning.

We really have no idea what a consultant is supposed to do. The severance agreement doesn't list any specific tasks for Dixon outside of helping in the search for a new president. The agreement also says she "may be called upon to attend various University functions and activities but is not required to do so unless requested and mutually agreed."

It doesn't seem like we are going

to get our money's worth out of her helping pick a new boss and maybe attending a few functions. We have some ideas for the Board of Governors to consider so it can utilize Consultant Dixon to the fullest of her potential.

First, the position should be treated more like an ambassador to the University. Dixon was here for five years and has to know Truman better than anyone.

Dixon should travel throughout Michigan and talk to prospective students about Truman. Native Michiganders do not make up a large portion of Truman enrollment. In fact, many people in the state might not know about our little school. Wouldn't it be great for sagging enrollment if Dixon went to high schools throughout the state to encourage students to come here? It would be quite a boon for the University to have students from places other than Kansas City and St. Louis.

Another option the Board could consider would be to make her a part of fundraisers. The contract says she may be called on for fundraisers, and we think this is a great idea. The University is constantly looking to raise money. In fact, it was on Dixon's watch that the capital campaign started. Have Dixon throw a few dinners, meet with affluent alumni and just go forth to help raise money. As president, Dixon was a big proponent of the capital campaign. She still should support it as a consultant.

These are just two options, but we encourage the members of the Board to think of others. Dixon has served the University for five years and her new contract says she will serve it for one more. Don't let her sit hundreds of miles away cashing in on leaving early. Retirement can wait a year.

## 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.



## Letters to the Editor

### Bulldogs are suitable mascots, deserve respect

I'm quite surprised that a Truman faculty member would be so fond of stereotyping pit bulls and would lump pit bulls, bulldogs and other "bully" breeds into a negative category with no redeeming qualities. As a pit bull owner, I've noticed that pit bulls have come under a great deal of discrimination because of conceptions of how aggressive and dangerous they are. This ignores the true nature of "bully" breeds.

During World War I and World War II, the American Pit Bull Terrier was used in posters for the United States and labeled as "Defenders of Glory." During the Civil War, a pit bull named Sallie was a runner who sought out the injured and deceased. She is immortalized in a monument to the 11th Pennsylvania Infantry.

Again in World War I, a pit bull named Stubby was a runner for the injured and carried messages across the battlefield. Stubby the pit bull is the most decorated war dog in the United States. Stubby received honors from Presidents Harding and Coolidge as well as Truman's very own General John J. Pershing. Pit bulls, bulldogs and other "bully" breeds have proven themselves to be loyal and courageous dogs. I think it's an honor for Truman to be represented by such an intelligent species of animal with so many ties to the Kirksville community.

Julie Mangrum  
Alumna

### Columns fail to provide perspective, insight

To use the words of John McCain's top economic adviser on the current economic crisis, a portion of the Index's editorial staff seem to be in a "mental recession" and are a "[group] of whiners." I have never lost confidence in the ability of the news writers to provide stories that are mostly interesting and pertinent to the concerns of the Truman and Kirksville communities, but the editorial staff seems to have lost something since I was a student. Columns have lost a certain punch this fall, and are really not that interesting or enjoyable to read.

As an alumnus, I still religiously visit the Index Web site each Thursday because I see it as an easy way to stay involved with the community I came to love during my four years there. In the last few weeks, uneducated, biased, and holier-than-thou editorial commentary has threatened that love. I don't care to read someone's political commentary using the same talking points that Fox News spews every night. I don't enjoy uneducated viewpoints about the dire problem of drinking at Truman (believe me, it's not as common as the column makes it seem), and I really could care less about a

22-year-old in Nevada and her loose morals.

I used to turn to the Index for intelligent discussion of current events from people with editorial insight and a gift for writing. Lately, both of those have been in short supply. Of the aforementioned columns, two were written by the same person, and all three are written by freshmen. Lack of perspective, perhaps? I would guess that I am not alone in suggesting that the editorial section needs some change.

Craig Hermann  
Alumnus

### Vicars' column doesn't state facts about Obama

Oh, Zach Vicars, what stubborn things facts are. One cannot escape them. They haunt you, sometimes. Especially when others know them, and you hope they don't. At first, I hoped you were ignorant of those most stubborn things, facts. However, the more I read of your column in the Sept. 18 issue of the Index, the more I became convinced of something far more sinister than your ignorance.

Let us mince no words. You, Zach Vicars, are a deceiver, one who smears a sitting United States senator and expects an educated audience to sit idly by as you clumsily attempt to mislead the public on all fronts. You are a mendacious, vile columnist for your lies.

So let us examine your falsehoods in light of those haunting facts. At your boldest, you write, Sen. Obama is the "least experienced, least active, most cowardly candidate in U.S. history." Have you no decency, Zach Vicars? Have you no shame?

A few facts are in order: First, Sen. Obama is not even the least experienced presidential candidate in the last century, much less U.S. history. You naturally omitted Wendell Willkie, whose experience was as an attorney for a tire company and a utility company prior to his loss to Franklin Roosevelt in 1940. Willkie was hardly the picture of government experience compared to one who has served in the U.S. and Illinois state senates for more than a decade.

Second, you call Sen. Obama the "least active" candidate, which I assume to mean inactivity with taking a stand on the issues. You furthered this claim with a bald-faced lie, when you wrote that Sen. Obama made excuses and dodged a question about abortion.

Let us again have the facts. Sen. Obama was responding to a question about the beginning of human rights for a fetus and said: "Answering that question with specificity is above my pay grade. ... I think that anybody who tries to deny the moral difficulties and gravity of the abortion issue is not paying

attention, so that would be point number one. But point number two, I am pro-choice." Obama went on to state explicitly that he supports Roe v. Wade.

Finally, you call Sen. Obama cowardly, with no truth to support your claim. So let us know the true cowards among us. Admit you used the newspaper to vacate your excreta, hoping readers would devour such trash in their hunger for controversy, and that you wrote without regard to the integrity of those columnists who came before you. Or, Zach Vicars, admit you wrote in fear of the facts. They are, after all, stubborn things.

Daniel Glossenger  
Alumnus

### Changes could benefit International Film Festival

As a consistent supporter of nearly all global film efforts on display in this blinkered rural community of ours, bravissimo to Tyler Retherford for his column in the Sept. 18 issue of the Index and its manifest support. Sadly, many of my fellow Kirksville locals are unaware that provided they can evidence some connection with the campus, they are entitled to go to the free movies each Wednesday at the Downtown Cinema 8, with all credit due to both the theater's management and professor of French Tim Farley for getting the start-up grant from France.

However, Retherford's alternative time and venue ideas are naive at best and take little realistic account of inhibiting factors. He fails to mention that the film censorship body, the Motion Pictures Association of America, consistently over-rates realistic sex and violence in our overseas films as a protective device, so as to make it profitable for them to find a U.S. distributor network willing to show foreign films.

Locally, Retherford seems unaware of how, for the past two years, the University administration has been shaking course instructors and student film societies out of their collective nervous wits, shouting "copyright fees," extortionately, at all such potential weekday film projects.

One thing the University could improve with the remainder of its current festival is the erratic nature of its professor introducers of these frequently feminist films. You see, female professor introducers so far are tragically uncalled, save 5 percent. And some professors do not call for subsequent café debate or accurately describe their film's debate grounds of provocation. This ought to be rectified because when the introduction is done well, one's interest in the film perks up, never mind the subtitles.

Larry Iles  
Kirksville resident

INDEX		
Serving the University community since 1909		
Staff		
<b>Editor in Chief</b> Julie Williams	<b>Managing Editor</b> Joe Barker	<b>Opinions Editor</b> Kelsey Landhuis
<b>Sports Editor</b> Blake Toppmeyer	<b>Features Editor</b> Alex Boles	<b>News Editor</b> Jessica Rapp
<b>Assistant Sports Editor</b> Jack Nicholl	<b>Assistant Features Editor</b> Zoe Martin	<b>Assistant News Editors</b> Caitlin Dean John Moenster
<b>Sports Staff</b> Joe Bell Krista Crider Brent Foster Arron Husted Logan Jackson	<b>Features Staff</b> Paul Bischoff Chris Boning Harry Burson Franklin K. R. Cline Stephanie Hall Julia Hansen John Hitzel Charlotte Keenan Michelle Martin Erin McKee Kelly Schute	<b>News Staff</b> Reneé Cella Mark Hardy Andrea Hewitt Margaret Hooper Robert Williams Sarah Scott
<b>Photo Editor</b> Brian O'Shaughnessy	<b>Copy Chief</b> Megan Kleo	<b>Copy Editors</b> Lily Bicknell Chris Boning Katie Huffman Jean Kaul Julie Pincus Kelly Schute Zach Vicars Emily Ward
<b>Assistant Photo Editor</b> Mayank Dhungana	<b>Design Chief</b> Antionette Bedessie	<b>Designer</b> Sarah Schneider
<b>Photographers</b> Krista Goodman Amy Gleaves	<b>Online Editor</b> Mike Solomon	<b>Cartoonist</b> Erin Neumann
<b>Business Manager</b> Olivia Crandall	<b>Advertising Manager</b> Ashley Hancock	<b>Adviser</b> Don Krause
<b>Assistant Advertising Manager</b> Katie May	<b>Advertising Staff</b> Kelley Hulse Katia Ivanova Melanie Kenyon Thomas Schonhardt	<b>Distribution</b> Andrew Hamline Brenna McDermott

### Letters Policy

The Index welcomes letters to the editor from the University community. Letters to the editor are due by noon the Monday before publication and become property of the Index. Submissions are subject to editing, must contain a well-developed theme and cannot exceed 500 words except at the discretion of the Editorial Board. All letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, signed by at least one individual and include a phone number for verification. The Index does not publish anonymous letters to the editor. Letters to the editor also may be submitted by e-mail at [index@truman.edu](mailto:index@truman.edu) or on our Web site at [www.trumanindex.com](http://www.trumanindex.com). Include the words "letter to the editor" in the subject line of the e-mail. No individual may submit more than one letter a week.

### 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.

### Advertising Policy

For up-to-date information on current rates or to inquire about the availability of classified ads in the Index, contact our advertising department at 785-4319. Our fax number is 785-7601, or you can e-mail us at [indexads@truman.edu](mailto:indexads@truman.edu).

## What was going on in the INDEX?

5 years ago – September 25, 2003

A fire in the Fair Apartments lounge forced students in residences near the lounge to evacuate the building. The Kirksville Fire Department and the Department of Public Safety determined that the fire was started by a telephone placed in a microwave.