

EDITORIAL

OUR VIEW

Safe Rides program needs development

Safe Rides is a long overdue addition to Truman's student support. The idea has been thrown around before, but maybe, just maybe this time the idea for a sober driving service will stick and develop into a legitimate plan. But right now, it is nothing more than an idea. Student Senate often seems to have many goals and plans, but many plans don't actually materialize in the long run. The Safe Rides program seems like a great idea. It is a legitimate way to better the lives of students through interest in their safety. Even students who don't drink can appreciate the idea of a late-night ride home from Pancake City to Centennial Hall. And being part of a community means even if some students won't use the Safe Rides program, they can still appreciate the good it will do for the percentage of students who will use it. Just because Student Senate is supporting a way to get intoxicated students home safely doesn't mean the Senate or the University supports underage drinking. Regardless of whether Safe Rides happens, students will drink. This is a preventative method the University can use to protect its students. Yes, we are in college, but some students still don't make the wisest choices. And if the University can take some measures to make sure we don't make stupid decisions like hopping in the driver's seat after knocking a few back at the local dive, it is a great idea in the opinion of the Editorial Board. However, as the idea stands now, it is not a plan so much as a pipe dream. And we cannot support the pipe dream blindly. If this sober driving program is going to happen, Student Senate needs the support of the students. But as educated, intelligent stu-

dents, we should not completely support an idea that, at this point in time, has no details, little or no cooperation from necessary parties and no reported price tag. Student Senate needs to keep working to make this program happen. First and foremost, tell students how much money will be coming out of their pockets and the University's pocket to pay for the Safe Rides program. At this financially uncertain time, if the cost is going to be exorbitant, perhaps students will decide it isn't worth spending the money when job cuts and class size increases are being discussed. The University also needs to work out an agreement with Kirksville Police Department and the Department of Public Safety so that students who are intoxicated and traveling in Safe Rides transportation will not be intentionally targeted for underage drinking. Otherwise, why would underage students take a shuttle back to their residence halls knowing a DPS officer would be waiting to cuff them as the shuttle doors opened? It would make more sense to continue to take alleys and dark streets home to avoid ending up in the clink. Before the program goes through any more development, this problem has to be resolved. Otherwise the Safe Rides initiative will be a waste of senators' time and a waste of our money. Maybe once students and administration have all the details, both groups will decide it is an excellent way for Student Senate and the University to serve students. But until the details are revealed, students can't make a responsible decision to support the program. We need more information. It is admirable that Student Senate has enthusiasm for the project, but enthusiasm alone will keep the Safe Rides program in park.

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 Student Senate brief on Page 2 of the March 25 edition of the Index should have said Senate approved a money motion to send someone to the White Privilege Conference, not White Persons Conference.
 * The names of men's golfers Alex Key, Andy Herington and Nik Bentzinger were misspelled in the men's golf story in the March 25 edition of the Index.

CARTOON

By Alex Boles



Letters to the Editor

Priests' abuse creates cruelty

All creditworthiness to Alex Boles for her "Church should hold priests accountable" bromide piece against the present Pope and his hierarchy's repeated failure toward letting its clergy face the full sanction of civil law in cases of proven child molestation. The situation, now, is not just clamant for redness in the Irish Republic as she spotlights. Too, but so bad in Pope Benedict's own Germany, that even the traditionally religiously aligned Christian Democrat ruling, conservative party, of Chancellor Angela Merkel, has launched a public "inquiry" investigation process, with herself, personally rebuking this pontiff for his dilatoriness in inaction towards now adult "victims" assertions. But given Roman Catholics are TSU's biggest student clientele, she ought to go more radically into possible remedies besides her advocacies of the law's rigors of enforcement. Especially as many of us who are Protestants, Agnostics or outright Atheists share her stated own "roots" of being, no parental wedded choice to the contrary allowed "Catholic school" reared. In particular, two topics are in need of ventilation as much better, if long-term, granted, remedies to this molestation problem than just sometimes to draconian law punishment of such frequently elderly, collard male offenders. Firstly, why in God's name in the early 21 Century, is the Roman Catholic male hierarchy being permitted, still, to ban marriage, heterosexually as much as homosexually, if its vast clergy? Not only do most Protestant churches allow at least "hetero" such unions and female clergy practitioners in healthier outlets, than "celibacy" breaking out into unwarranted child abuse. But the historical evidence is very stark, that even as far back as the Reformation priests, monks and nuns were, in practice, in revolt. Against their own church's denial of our human free will natural sexuality in companionship quest fulfillment. Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, Henry VIII's hapless annulment seeker in the Vatican had for instance a known "wife." Finally, Boles also omits the most distressing thing of all about Benedict and his very unresponsive hierarchy, in that they have been, systematically, undoing the progress the great Italian

Pope present John the 23 inaugurated in the early 1960s by steering his church into far right wing male chauvinistic politics. The saddening announcement by U.S. representative Patrick Kennedy in New England that he will not run for re-election comes, in part, because disgustingly his area bishop has tried to wreck his late U.S. Senator father Ted's public insurance efforts by raising the "abortion" issue. How many progressive Catholics realize that public insurance has, au contraire, these male conservatives, been permitted by progressive popes in Europe since the end of the late 19th century and one of the Leo's encyclicals against else total, laissez faire "do nothing" rich mens' "capitalism" in cruelty toward America's poor of both sexes and vulnerable kids most poignantly of all.

Larry Iles, Kirksville resident

Even though this policy is sometimes inconvenient, it is only there to benefit students.

Jared Steck
freshman

Smoking ban denies rights for smokers

In the March 14 edition of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, one article talks about Westminster College in Fulton, Mo., banning smoking on campus. This topic is very relevant today, especially on Truman's campus.

Being a non-smoking college student I am still around smoking when walking around campus as well as at social gatherings. I think the banning of smoking across this country has gone too far. Everyone knows that smoking causes health issues, but aren't we a free country? People are not forced to smoke cigarettes or tobacco products, but choose to. With all the banning of smoking in public places, it feels like this country is trying to make our decisions for us.

However, if the government was so concerned about the effects of smoking, they would ban selling cigarettes altogether.

Yet, this won't happen because it would wipe out an entire industry (tobacco), as well as the business that make profits off selling cigarettes and other tobacco products.

In addition, states receive a lot of money off tax revenue on tobacco. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Arkansas increased the tax on cigarettes by 56 cents. This increase in tax is projected to generate more than \$85 million per year for the state. This is only one of many examples on this site, but it is a prime example of how much money tobacco sales bring in to their respective states.

I understand the concern over cigarettes and public health, but it's a free country that was ultimately founded on tobacco farms. And until this country isn't free anymore, smoking should be a choice and not banned and looked down upon.

Sam Friedman
freshman

Rec shoe policy benefits students

As a freshman still getting used to the fast pace of college life I always try to make time to exercise. This typically results in trips to the Student Recreation Center several times per week.

Before entering the Rec Center, a worker swipes your student ID and checks to see if you are carrying a second pair of shoes. Being a somewhat absent minded individual, I will often forget this required second pair of shoes and upon arrival will promptly be denied entry. An extra time consuming and frustrating walk between the rec and my residence hall to attain more footwear usually ensues. At these moments I just do not understand why it is necessary to have two pairs of shoes to work out. Tired of listening to myself and other rec-goers complain and wonder about the extra shoes. I came up with a couple reasons why the shoes are important.

The extra pair of shoes helps keep cleaning time and costs to a minimum, by reducing the amount of dirt and debris from outdoors being tracked into the building. Also, with Kirksville's snowy and rainy weather, shoes carry a lot of moisture inside. The large amount of water brought in can collect on a smooth floor and cause a slip or injury.

I applaud the Student Recreation Center for enforcing this rule to maximize safety and decrease costs.

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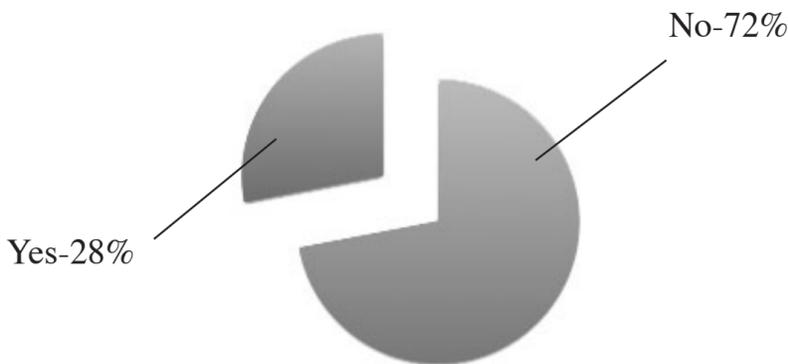
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