

EDITORIAL

OUR VIEW

HvZ leaders handled threat responsibly

Humans vs. Zombies isn't a dangerous activity. Yes, passersby might occasionally get knocked around, some participants might hit the pavement after leaping to avoid a zombie, but for the most part, the game is in good fun.

The participants are passionate about the game. Web sites, Facebook pages and meetings are devoted to what is, essentially, a game of tag. Even those who don't participate enjoy taking in the spectacle, whether in awe or jest.

But when an unknown 18- to 21-year-old approached an HvZ participant and claimed to have a "gat" that hurt people," according to the Department of Public Safety press release (see story, page 1), the game became a concern for students' safety. Game moderators were wise in canceling the remainder of this year's game while DPS investigates the incident, and the University should take action to protect the student body and re-evaluate the rules of the game, harmless as it might seem.

It's a sad world we live in that some people take a fun game and turn it into a potentially dangerous situation. But it happens. Growing up with the memory of the Columbine and Virginia Tech shootings, we're used to hearing one message: Someone saw the warning signs. Someone saw the signs that a student, neighbor or child was exhibiting signs of dangerous behavior. Someone saw the signs and ignored them.

This should be one time when we learn from past mistakes and acknowledge signs of a potential threat to our University and address those concerns. And the moderators of HvZ, as well as DPS, handled the situation in the most responsible — albeit disappointing for participants — way by canceling the game for the rest of the semester.

Although the unknown male in question reportedly was not a member of the game, we can't just assume it was a coincidence the male approached someone participating in a game with simulated weapons, even if those weapons are simply Nerf guns. Someone referenced having a real gun on campus, which could be linked to, if not truly associated with, HvZ.

Maybe it is time for the administration and the leaders of HvZ to re-evaluate the game. Looking at what other schools have done to adjust the game to make it safer and less controversial would be helpful. The University of Colorado's police department banned the use of simulated weapons such as Nerf guns on campus in December, allowing only balled-up socks as weapons. Sure, it might not be as realistic to "stun" a "zombie" with a balled-up, dirty sock, but it might be safer. Although Nerf guns don't look realistic, they are still a simulated weapon. It is understandable for students or administrators to feel uncomfortable with that. And in the end, it is a game of tag. Nerf guns are not necessary to enjoy the game. Perhaps HvZ could occur more often if more precautions like this were taken and the 95 percent of students who did not participate in HvZ felt more comfortable with the game.

Although the game did end because a student reported the incident, the student should be praised for reporting a situation that made the student uncomfortable, even if it robbed some 300 students of a little fun. Perhaps tragedies at other schools could have been avoided had someone spoken up and reported suspicious events. HvZ is entertaining for the participants and onlookers, but in this case, the best decision was to cancel the game for the semester. Players are probably disappointed, but better safe than sorry.

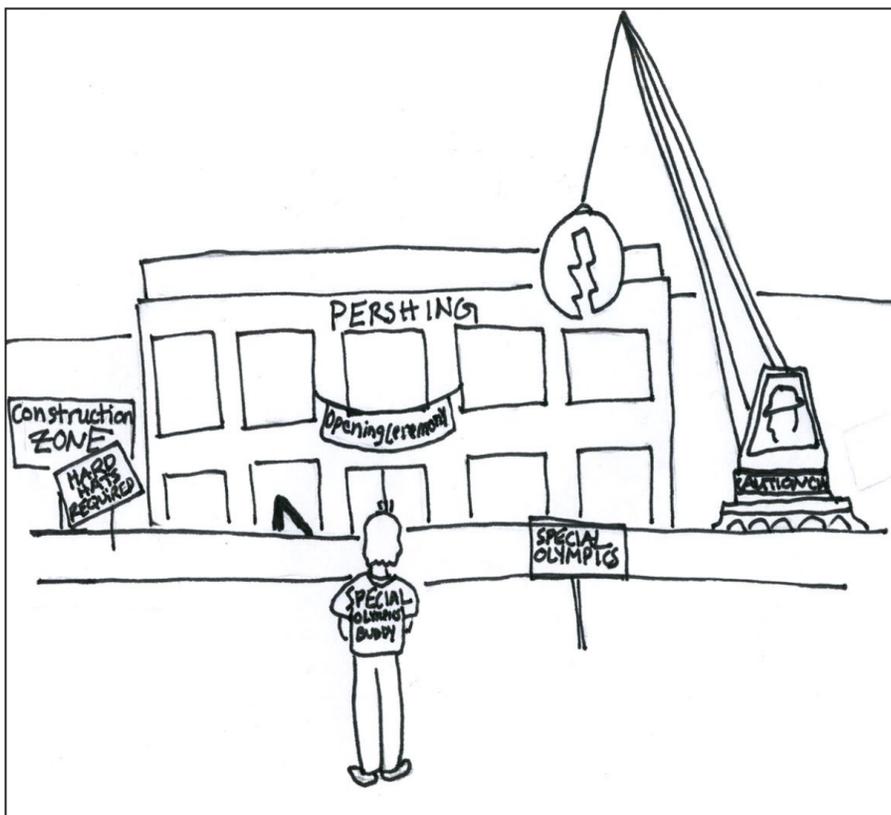
CORRECTIONS

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.

* An article on page 19 of the April 1 edition of the Index misidentified senior wrestler Dean Schultz as a second team academic All-American. Schultz is actually a second-team All-Academic wrestler.
 * A cutline on page 2 of the April 1 edition of the Index misidentified Kyle Olmstead as a sophomore. Olmstead is a junior.

CARTOON

By Alex Boles



Letters to the Editor

Students receive accreditations

Congratulations to the Chemistry Department. I read in the Feb. 24 issue of Truman Today that Truman had granted more American Chemistry Society-accredited degrees than all but one of the Ivy League schools and awarded 14 more ACS-accredited chemistry degrees than the rest of the MIAA conference colleges and universities. Truman also awarded only one fewer ACS degree than the combined total of all the University of Missouri campuses. The ACS degree in chemistry is the best and most accepted undergraduate chemistry degree granted in the USA. These are truly remarkable achievements for the chemistry program. Congratulations to the students, faculty and staff at Truman State University!

Jack Magruder
Former Truman President

Truman coach and alumnus dies

We recently lost a very, very great 'Dog when Dr. Delbert Maddox passed away recently. I

certainly hope that an appropriate article is composed and printed on a special person that contributed so much for so long to the TSU athletic family.

Bill Woodall
Class of '79

STD testing worthy of inclusion in budget

I am writing to urge Student Senate to put free HIV and STD testing in the Student Senate budget. It is widely known that most people who are infected have no signs or symptoms. Even if a student has unprotected sex with no signs of an STD, they need to be checked. Being a student, I feel like most students with little money wouldn't pay to be tested if there are no signs. If a student knew that the health center allowed free confidential testing, it would be more likely that the student goes to get tested. There would be more of a chance that a student would go to the health center rather than a community clinic because it is more convenient. I think the easier it is for a student to be tested, the more likely students will be tested.

Sexually transmitted diseases are serious. I think the campus

focuses on our health a lot, but not enough about our sexual health. Spreading of sexual diseases can affect a person for the rest of their life. A flu and cold, you don't live with the rest of your life, but sexual diseases will stay with you. Sometimes students don't take care of themselves because they feel invincible. Some students just can't take care of themselves because they really can't afford it. I think Student Senate should really consider putting free testing in their budget because of the danger that these diseases cause.

It is clear that the college community is sexually active. Sexually transmitted diseases are a vicious cycle that could start from just one person not knowing they are infected. With sexual diseases being so common, it is a good possibility that the college community could be infected. The more people who know they are infected with an STD, the less likely there will be an outbreak on campus. Most students want to protect their bodies and not be scared to have sex because they don't know if they are infected. Students should be aware that the health center can easily give tests and should have the opportunity to be able to afford the tests as many times as they need them.

Kelsey Owsley
sophomore

INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909

Staff

Editor in Chief Blake Toppmeyer	Online Editor Patrick Gross	Managing Editor Jessica Rapp
Sports Editor Jack Nicholl	Features Editor Cassandra McCarty	Opinions Editor Brenna McDermott
Assistant Sports Editor Brent Foster	Assistant Features Editor Shawn Shinneman	News Editors Andrea Hewitt Blaise Hart-Schmidt
Sports Staff Logan Jackson Jocelyn Nebel Brendan O'Brien	Features Staff Corey Bommel Alex Carlson Bethany Coury Hannah Douglas Ken Dusold Jennifer Lewis Michelle Martin Anna Meier Elizabeth Necka Anne Rebar Shannon Walter	News Staff Maximilian Ernst Baillie James Tawanda Kanhema Elizabeth Koch Lisa Kucharski Shihara Maduwage Dan Warner
Multimedia Editor John Moenster	Design Chief Antionette Bedessie	Copy Chiefs Alex Boles Jennifer Brownell John Marty
Photo Editor Brian O'Shaughnessy	Designers Cameron Ballentine Rose Runser Sarah Schneider	Copy Editors Sara Besserman Bethany Coury Kyle Hood Brittany Keeling Joshua Kehe Elizabeth Koch Anna Meier Joseph O'Brien Angela Schepeler Tim Schlee Kelly Schute Lauren Yarbrough Mike Solomon
Assistant Photo Editor Mayank Dhungana	Advertising Manager Karen Thrasher	
Photographers Bo Bursaco Krista Goodman Amy Gleaves	Adviser Don Krause	
Cartoonist Alex Boles		
Business Manager Olivia Crandall		
Distribution and Circulation Bradley LaPlante Andrew Hamline Harini DeSilva		

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 or on our Web site at 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

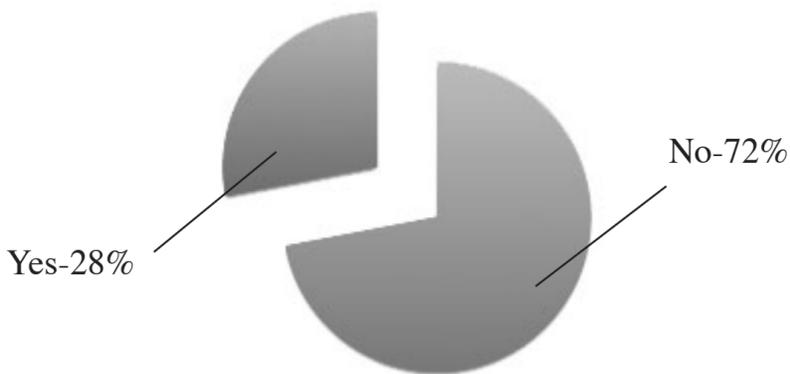
The Index is published Thursdays during the school year by students at Truman State University, Kirksville, MO 63501. The first copy is free, and additional copies cost 50 cents each. The production offices are located in Barnett Hall. We can be reached by phone at 660-785-4449. The Index is a designated 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.

WEB POLL

Have you ever cheated at Truman?



This week's question:

How important or unimportant are Student Senate leaders?

Vote online at trumanindex.com