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EDITORIAL

OUR VIEW

Use of athletic fee should benefit all

The purpose of the Student Athletic Fee is to serve the student body as well as varsity sports. However, with the proposed renovation to the weight room in Pershing Building, it is only the athletes who would benefit (see story, page 3).

The proposed \$200,000 renovation to the weight room will be funded using the \$50-per-semester fee that all students pay. Sophomore Isaac Robinson and junior Kyle Olmstead, Student Senate president and vice president, have written a resolution against this proposal which we as an Editorial Board agree with.

The athletic fee should benefit athletes but also should benefit the whole student body. An athletic fee is not restricted solely to Truman's campus. Fees also are in place at Southeast Missouri State University, University of Central Missouri and Northwest Missouri State University, which help pay for athletic related improvements. We are by no means opposed to the fee. It does a lot of good by providing students with free admission to most sporting events, something not often available for college students. It paid for lights and turf at Stokes Stadium, and there are plans to resurface the tennis courts. However, funding something that will solely benefit athletes, like the weight room, is not fair to the entire student body. There are projects the University can pursue that will benefit everyone.

Even though the University doesn't consider us all varsity athletes, everyone can use the recently resurfaced football field. The field is technically available to all students, but it remains a spot that is utilized mainly by athletes, whether they are from club sports, intramurals, varsity sports, Greek Life sporting games or

ROTC. If this proposal is passed, the weight room will become a project funded by the student body's money but benefits only varsity athletes.

We acknowledge that the weight room is currently in need of some improvements. The biggest problems, cited by the athletes, are the lack of space and old equipment. With Pershing's renovations currently in progress, it might be possible to expand the weight room now and then purchase new equipment when the majority of the projects funded by the fee (current and recent) are not benefiting such a small portion of the student body. However, \$200,000 is a big chunk of change for something that so few students will use.

Therefore, as an alternative to the weight room, we believe that the funding from the athletic fee should be saved and put toward a common area that all students will have equal access to. We believe that by putting the athletic fee toward something like a multipurpose field, such as the turf field behind Centennial Hall that was approved by the Board of Governors on April 10, more students will have access to what their money has paid for. Also, this would act as an area anyone could use without feeling as if they aren't welcome because they aren't "athletes." A multipurpose field would be an area that is accessible at all times, unlike the football field, which always seems to be hosting a game or event.

Most students would never even see the renovated weight room — why should the athletic fee we pay fund it? A project like the multipurpose field would be a better use of the athletic fee to serve the University as a whole.

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.

CARTOON

By Alex Boles



Letters to the Editor

Truman parents thank community

My husband and I first came to Kirksville in April of 1999 to visit the University with our oldest daughter, Jackie. This May, our youngest daughter, Leslie, will graduate. For eleven years we have journeyed to Kirksville to witness their milestones, from the excitement of moving into the residence halls to the joy of graduation day.

We would like to say thank you to both the faculty and staff of Truman, and the Kirksville community as a whole, for taking care of our daughters for eleven years.

Thank you to the dentist for fixing Jackie's braces free of charge in 2004. Thank you to Tracy at Whitney Agency for helping our girls find places to live. Thank you to the mechanics at Jones Brothers for keeping them safe. Thank you to their employers, JC Penney and Northeast Regional Medical Center. Thank you especially to Drs. Brent Buckner, Diane Janick-Buckner, Cynthia Cooper and Kathryn Brammall for mentoring our girls and helping them become the women they are today.

They say it takes a village to raise a child, so thank you for helping us finish what we started so many years ago when our babies were born. We might not ever return to Kirksville, but there will always be a special place in our hearts for your community.

*Donald and Joan Weiss
Truman parents*

Rewriting history continues long tradition

J.Hitzel's column, "Texans rewrite history, reveal conservative bias," in the April 22 edition of the Index, alas, is behind the times, dangerously so. U.S. conservatives

have made vast strides since Ronald Reagan and his acolytes, like Dr. Lynne Cheney, launched their combined attacks on PBS/NPR alleged left bias in contemporary history in the president's case, and Dick's latter wife, herself, personally smashed the excellent Bradley and a later NHE funded report. These items would have changed this land's insular school and college social studies and history courses toward the pluralist values which most of us are used to teaching in higher, self-critical standards, back in our native land abroad.

Think I am exaggerating, as an open admirer of the late Howard Zinn, with his ex-USAF bomber's horror of U.S. wars abroad? After all, even Bush II, has admitted 30,000 Iraqi civilian deaths in that mess.

Well, I am not in the least doing so, about how much needless bias of the Right you are all getting over here. In the Bradley report, the later author of the NHE funded report which Cheney destroyed, in spite of its original bipartisan funding by Congress, there is a chapter of still unremedied grievance. Gary Nash says he is an unashamed supporter of what we in the U.K. call your War of Independence — a radical in short. But even he wonders why virtually no standard college text on that war inside this country talks, in his words, memorably, about the biggest anti-slave uprising before Nat Turner or the civil war massive flights in this country.

Guess what folks! He's right. I did my own first History MA partial dissertation on it, but in London University, on — wait for it — a U.K. Thatcherite's evenhanded supervision. It was the slaves who joined our U.K. Loyalist side in that war by their thousands. And in Canada and in the West Indies where their descendants are, there's just a bit more history allowed in legitimate pride. Could the present U.S. conservatives' refusal to teach such matters have anything to do with the unsavory fact that Lord Cornwallis successfully secured your French and Spanish allies' backing to overrule, in his surrender process, Washington slaveholder's

requests that the hundreds of slaves pledged their freedom for fighting for us throughout the deep South be returned in chains?

Larry Iles, Kirksville resident

New abortion bill takes away rights

Alex Boles' opinion piece on House Bill 1327, in the April 22 edition of the Index, makes several problematic assumptions.

First, her claim that abortion is wrong because the fetus feels pain is not based on fact. The ability to feel pain develops after the vast majority of abortions can legally be performed. When late-term abortions are performed, they are almost always done to save the life or health of the mother.

Second, Boles seems to believe that women are coerced into getting abortions but are not coerced by effectively being denied access to abortions, by being denied access to comprehensive sex education or by being strongly pressured to have sex in the first place. Women need to be empowered to make smart choices at all points in their lives, not just when they reach the point of having to decide what to do about an unplanned pregnancy.

Finally, Boles appears to equate female sexuality primarily with motherhood ("If you're not responsible enough to be a mother, don't have sex") or, failing that, with the need for the woman to take all responsibility for contraception ("or at least use protection"). Yet we make it hard for young women to be adequately prepared, hard for them to say no, hard for them to demand that the young man of their dreams put on a condom.

Women do not need one more law that purports to protect us but really just takes away our rights. What we need is the acknowledgment that the equality promised to all American citizens is not yet ours.

*Linda Seidel
English professor*

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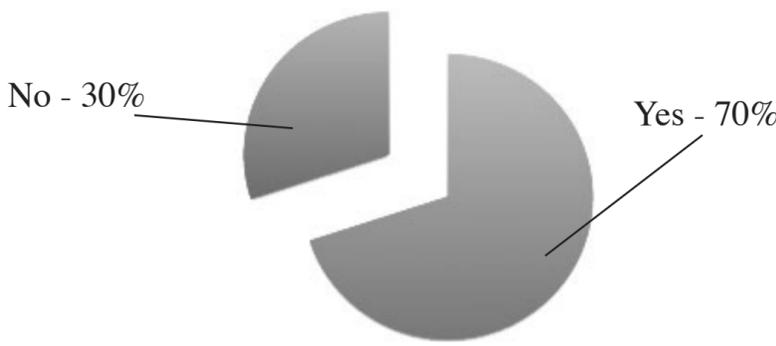
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