

EDITORIAL

OUR VIEW

Sumter deserves credit for representative work

As an Editorial Board, we often see it as our role to analyze, question and, yes, sometimes even criticize certain goings on at our University.

Such was the case in September 2007, when the then-Editorial Board published that they were unsure if the class of 2010 "was worth the paper you're printed on" because only two Truman students applied for the upcoming opening for student representative position to the Board of Governors.

Because the student representative serves for two years, the Editorial Board at that time singled out the class of 2010. The students in that class were sophomores then, and the Editorial Board thought those students should be interested in a two-year term as the Board of Governors' student representative, arguably the most important student position at Truman.

Not surprisingly, the Index received eight letters of displeasure the following week from members of class of 2010, outraged by the editorial.

Was the 2007 Editorial Board correct criticizing the class of 2010? This Editorial Board will not try to answer that question.

Instead, we would rather applaud the efforts of the individual who emerged from that short list of applicants in 2007: Cody Sumter, who coincidentally originally was a member of the class of 2009 and who now will graduate in May as a fifth-year senior.

Although there were only two applicants for the position, this University still received the best representative it could have hoped for in Sumter. Sumter was appointed to his student representative position in April 2008, and he likely will finish his term soon. Gov. Jay Nixon has selected junior Luke Freeland as Sumter's replacement (see story Page 1). Freeland still must be approved by the Missouri Senate.

Sumter did not get the pleasure of a two-year joy ride as student representative. In fact, he and the rest of the

Board of Governors endured a gauntlet of struggles as great as the University has faced in recent memory — highlighted by former President Barbara Dixon's resignation in fall 2008 and the ongoing budget dilemma for Missouri's state institutions.

Sumter compares his student representative term to an ancient Chinese curse that says "May you live in interesting times." But although Sumter's term has definitely had its challenges, he has helped the Board meet them head on.

Sumter was on the committee that brought in Darrell Krueger to serve as interim president after Dixon bolted for Michigan. Krueger has done an admirable job keeping the presidential seat warm for his successor, Provost Troy Paino, whom Sumter also helped select through his involvement in the most recent presidential search committee.

Furthermore, Sumter has been very generous with his time to this University. Sumter's term was scheduled to end in December. But when Nixon's office delayed in selecting Sumter's replacement, he continued to fulfill the student representative duties. Although Sumter is interning at the Capitol this semester, he has made a few trips to Kirksville for events such as Board meetings and Paino's presidential forums. And Sumter financed those trips out of his own pocket.

We as an Editorial Board are grateful for the time Sumter gives to the media — Index reporters have interviewed him nearly 40 times during his two years as student representative. Sumter therefore serves not only as a liaison between students and the Board of Governors, but he also acts as a spokesman for the Board back to students.

Chinese curses might be on Sumter's mind, but we're thinking his term can be described by a different saying: Sometimes it's not the quantity of applicants, but the quality.

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

Residence halls waste energy

It's 3 a.m. — I wake up and rush to the bathroom, and upon entering, my vision is immediately distorted from the bright lights. Over time, I begin to realize that the lights in the bathroom are left on every night. After coming to this realization, I began to wonder how much energy it takes to power my residence hall bathroom every night, which led me to think: What if every bathroom light on campus were left on throughout the night?

I am writing to inform you about the blindness students are showing toward the ever-growing problem in America: our energy crisis. This energy crisis extends beyond leaving the lights on in the bathroom. It is also about the wastefulness in the cafeteria and the lack of recycling in the residence halls. But even correcting this one thing — turning off the bathroom lights — can help maintain an energy efficient campus. Truman students aren't aware of the impact turning off lights has on the environment.

The lack of awareness concerning the energy crisis among Missourians led to an appalling statistic that was exposed by The Union of Concerned Scientists in 2008, which revealed: "Missouri utilities paid nearly \$1 billion on imported coal in 2006 alone."

Subsequently, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy in 2009 released an article stating: "Arkansas and Missouri are two of the worst energy-efficient states in the country. Results show that Arkansas and Missouri are tied at 41st in the nation." Although some students might think that one individual is powerless to solve the energy crisis, imagine what would happen if each student

turned off one light when leaving a room, powered-down his or her computer before going to bed, or recycled his or her soda can from a late night snack while studying. The result would be a huge reduction in energy around the campus, not only providing Truman State University with energy efficiency, but contributing globally to saving the environment.

In his article from Ezine Articles on April 17, 2009, "How Turning Off the Lights Can Make a Huge Difference to the Environment," Joshua Vadney affirms, "If every single household made an effort to turn their lights off in rooms not being used, the results would be dramatic. If everyone, in every home in America, turned their lights off when not actively using them, we would have a reduction of up to 25 percent in the amount of electricity used every day, which would put less stress on our energy grids." By shutting off the lights, students can conserve energy, and therefore, help the planet. I invite and encourage all Truman State University students to complete the simple task that could help combat our energy crisis: flip off the switch.

Devin Heier
freshman

Rec Center needs swimming pool

The Student Recreation Center is open every day of the week. It is open from 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. every Monday through Thursday. And the hours on the weekend are very similar. So if you cannot work out on school days, you can always have time during the weekend. To most people, this facility is very

convenient for their workouts. But for me, and possible others around campus, there is one thing missing — a swimming pool.

Some might argue that the rec center does not need a pool because there is already one in Pershing Building, but I disagree. Not to sound stingy, but the way I used to work out in St. Louis, my hometown, was going for a swim following a good lift in the weight room. Now I can still do that here, but it would be a cold and painful walk across campus from Pershing to the rec, especially when I'm still soaking wet. If there was a swimming facility in the rec, it would be more convenient and efficient for many students. I know that there are high school swimmers out there that would agree with me. And not only for workouts, a pool also would attract kids to leisure activities in the water. I would love to get in and play some water polo once in a while. I know it cannot happen instantly, but I would really like Truman to strongly consider the idea. And if this plan does not work, why not try to make better the situation by adding some more pool hours at Pershing during the week?

A lot of the time I find it hard to go for a swim with the limited hours. The pool is only open for free swim, at most, three hours in a day. Sometimes the time span is only an hour. It is sometimes hard to finish my swim when I'm only able to swim for one hour, not including the time I need the change. And there are no hours on the weekend. For me, that's the best time to swim, and it's closed. So if Pershing could add a couple more pool hours during the week and weekend, I would be a very happy swimmer.

Rizwan Mahmood
freshman

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 Joeclyn Nebel Brendan O'Brien	Features Staff Russ Beckman 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	Assistant Advertising Manager Melissa Franklin
Photographers Krista Goodman Amy Gleaves	Adviser Don Krause	

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

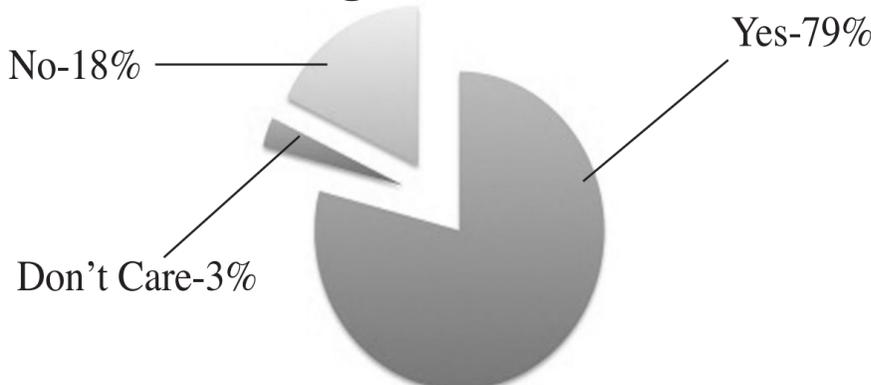
The Index is published Thursdays during the school year by students at Truman State University, Kirksville, MO 63501. The first copy is free, and additional copies cost 50 cents each. The production offices are located in Barnett Hall. We can be reached by phone at 660-785-4449. The Index is a designated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

Do you support Student Senate's smoking ban resolution?



This week's question:

Is the University "green" enough?

Vote online at trumanindex.com