

# INDEX EDITORIAL

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Thursday, March 25, 2010

## OUR VIEW

### Financial aid changes would benefit Truman

These days, the land of education funding is a dog-eat-dog world, and Truman is fighting for every single dollar it can get. So Gov. Jay Nixon's announcement that he intends to cut all government-funded financial aid for private colleges and universities should be a sigh of relief for students of public institutions. Hooray for Truman!

Living and learning in the liberal arts atmosphere that surrounds campus like a bubble, it might sound insensitive or unethical to express thankfulness, even happiness, that students at other institutions will be losing scholarship money. But it's time for us all to pop that bubble of ideology and live in the real world, where we should be grateful for every cent we as students and members of the University get to keep, because there sure aren't many of them these days.

We've all come to expect and enjoy the inexpensive nature of our educations, not only because of Truman's reasonable tuition costs, but because they are offset by state and University scholarships. How many of us would be able to afford living off campus or studying without having to worry about a job if we didn't have Bright Flight or Missouri Access scholarships?

The same philosophy goes for University funding cuts as well. We can't afford to worry about other schools' cuts. We can't join together with other universities to stand up to the depletion of education funding. We must simply rejoice for the little financial battles our University wins and pray to whatever god that we won't go down in flames.

Naysayers might say that a private education has some advantages that a public one does not — more diverse majors, special accommodations for religions. And that's fine. Those things are all a part of the private institution culture. But our government — state or national — has no business paying for the right of a potential student to experience a religious atmosphere. And part of that private school experience means

that students and parents are acknowledging upfront that they will be paying substantially more money than they would be paying for a public education. And it seems that financial burden is worth it to them.

But for those of us hailing the halls of public institutions around the state, it isn't. The state's current graduated system of scholarship funds rewards students who choose to go to a more expensive school. It's a disadvantage to students who want to be frugal with their educations. Why should we receive less funding because we chose to make a financially responsible decision about our college educations?

The state government has provided financial aid for privately educated students, essentially helping the private schools recruit because they are aware a portion of their tuition costs will be offset in many cases by state scholarships. The state government should be funneling that money and energy toward recruitment for public institutions. By cutting off scholarships for private school students, they will. Truman will become more appealing to students who either want the feel of a small private school or the liberal arts feel of a private institution. We are in a unique position to benefit from these potential cuts. When comparing Mizzou and Truman, which seems more like a private institution?

This possible strategy is a way to save citizens' tax dollars but still provide scholarships for higher education — albeit a little more selectively. The Editorial Board would love to save all financial aid and say it is worth it. We'd love our state government and all its citizens to say that as well. But that isn't the case. This is the best compromise. This isn't the state alienating students from scholarships. It's consolidating the number of scholarships. Bottom line, if education has to be cut, this is the best way to do it. And if it helps Truman along the way, that is just fine with us.

## 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.

## CARTOON

By Alex Boles



## Letters to the Editor

### Fiber will bring community together

When I first heard of Google Fiber, I wasn't sure about it. Yeah, I think that a faster Internet connection would be fabulous. I can't even count the number of times the Internet on campus was either too slow or not even working. It's frustrating. My first thought for Google Fiber coming to Kirksville was the idea that faster Internet might get carried away. The Internet is a great technology, no doubt, but sometimes I feel we depend on all these technological advances way too much. We often let it run our lives.

However, after reading more about Google Fiber, I became more interested and found it to have more positives than negatives.

Of course, the first positive that mostly everyone will see is that faster Internet means less frustration. Now, that would be nice. Also, I found that Google Fiber would benefit all ages, both young and old. Another great thing I saw in this advancement was the openness Google was giving to them by allowing the users the choice to have multiple providers. Google said they would work with other providers, making this idea of faster Internet more versatile.

To get this to the town of Kirksville we must work as a community to prove that we are important enough to try this out. This will help to bring the town all together to work as a team. It will strengthen the sense of community among all. To me, this was the most positive aspect about Google Fiber — helping to bring the community together.

Jessica Emmett  
freshman

### Smoking ban figures raise questions

The Benefits Committee is comprised of faculty and staff appointed by the President of the University. The underlying purpose of this committee is to review and evaluate employee benefit options and provide recommendations to the University President and his staff.

In November 2009 the committee approved a resolution that would ban smoking on campus property within 100 feet of any University structure beginning with the fall 2010 term. The committee worked with the University's benefits consultant, Gallagher, Inc., and our health insurance carrier, Anthem, regarding this issue.

Members of the Benefits Committee have concerns regarding some of the information reported in the March 4 Index article entitled "Senate Supports Smoking Ban." The article indicates that the University would save \$300,000 in health insurance premiums if Truman becomes a smoke-free campus.

The committee believes tobacco cessation programs, including prohibiting smoking on campus, will likely moderate health care claim expenses over time, however, the committee was not working under the premise that the campus going smoke-free would provide immediate cost savings and our consultants cautioned against trying to associate immediate hard dollar savings with the action.

The overall health/well-being of our students and faculty/staff is of primary concern to the Committee, and a smoke/tobacco-free campus will provide a positive step in addressing a key health concern, namely the creation of a well-ness culture at Truman. In addition, policies establishing smoke-free environments are an effective way to reduce

exposure to secondhand smoke.

We support changes in Truman's campus smoking policies, but we want the campus community to not have unrealistic expectations as to the immediate financial savings from such a change.

Partial list of Benefit Committee members:  
Linda Anderson, Athletics  
Susan Shoaff-Ballanger, Art  
Katie Best, Publications  
Michael Burkett, Physical Plant  
Sally Detweiler, Human Resources  
Brenda Higgins, Student Health Clinic  
Ronald Knight, Retiree  
Sam Minner, Health Sciences and Education  
Judy Mullins, Business Office  
Thomas Zoumaras, History

Judy Mullins  
Business office

### Olympic pool would help swimmers

So our swimming teams are some of the best teams at Truman. Why shouldn't the Athletics Advisory Committee give a new pool that is 50 meters long to the swim team, along with a new scoreboard and a timing system? Isn't it true that practice makes perfect?

The football team has turf grass to play on. The baseball team has a full complex to work out at and the track team has a full track to run on. So, why not let the swimmers get the real deal — the ability to work out in an Olympic size pool. By providing a bigger pool, it would allow the sport of diving to come into play at Truman. Because we have never had one, it would also allow bigger possibilities for sports at Truman. The natatorium was built in 1974 and hasn't been renovated since then. I agree that they need a new scoreboard and a new timing system, but at the same time they could also obtain a longer pool.

This would also help with the usage of the pool, allowing more students and faculty to swim because of the shorter practices the swimmers would need due to the longer pool. The AAC just needs to take into consideration that the current pool isn't long enough and that it could provide a better opportunity for the swimmers and students at Truman State University.

Daniel Cook  
sophomore

### Purple pride helps us celebrate Truman

Pride can mean many things, but I define it as "the state or feeling of being proud," because after almost four years at Truman, I am proud of my University. Almost every week I see something on campus to increase that pride. Every day we accomplish things at this University with less funding and perform in such a way that seems impossible for a school such as ours.

So despite the Truman shuffle and the other tough aspects of this institution, I can wholeheartedly say that I would do it all again. So many alumni I talk to speak of Truman as one of their favorite places in the world and would return here in a heartbeat. This is what pride and school spirit mean to me: an appreciation, a connection and a devotion to your school. It means sacrificing your time, money and talent to give back to Truman. So many people in different organizations work harder than you may even know to make Truman a better place. Commend their efforts by showing your support for this institution. Part of the college experience is a sense of

school spirit and community. If all Truman means to you is a place you show up to everyday then fine. I find it hard to believe however that one can invest four or more years without forming some sort of attachment to an institution.

Organizations and students do show spirit with action. Full of action are Student Senate, Greek Life, Truman Cheerleading, Student Athlete Advisory Committee, the Students of Exercise Science 350: Event and Game Management, Alpha Sigma Alpha, and Delta Sigma Pi. Those are just some of the student oriented groups that have offered their support to Purple Fridays. On campus, the Student Union Building, the Center for Student Involvement, Sodexo, Athletics, the Truman Bookstore and Student Affairs have shown their support for Purple Fridays. It seems that every time I talk to people about this project, someone approaches me about getting their organization involved. I want to personally thank all faculty, staff and students, who wear purple on Fridays. This project has relied completely on the kindness of others, yet another reason to be proud of Truman and the individuals who make up our campus community.

Almost every organization on campus has some sort of apparel to identify their member's allegiance. These shirts advertise the organizations and are a chance for members to show their pride. Almost every Truman student has been given some sort of Truman T-shirt. Upperclassmen have shirts that feature the color of their respective residence halls and underclassmen were given purple shirts at orientation. We wear labels on our clothing every day. Why is it wrong to encourage people to label themselves as Truman students? How proud can one be in their University if they are unwilling to display such pride?

I started the effort for Purple Fridays, because Truman is an amazing place (whether you like it or not). However, as an overall campus we lack school spirit. Every individual on this campus is unique. However one important facet binds us together as a society with a common interest: being here, at this University. Research has been done indicating that Truman students are looking for a display, or visual representation of school spirit and unity. The Arts and Sciences report identified the lack of spirit and traditions on campus as a weakness for our University. Embracing our school colors is one way to address that issue.

Asking students and faculty to wear purple or Truman apparel is not an impossible task. Nor is it silly or worthless. There are so many facets of life at Truman that we can brag about: Student Research, a Rhodes Scholar, national champions in athletics, award winning journalism, nationally recognized academic programs, spectacular performances from students in the arts, award-winning faculty, a supportive city, amazing support staff, successful graduates, organizations that make an impact and many more. We should be celebrating! Purple Fridays are about fun. Form a new habit — wear purple on Friday. Find a small way to incorporate it into your wardrobe, be it a hat, a ribbon, makeup, sweats, shoes, sunglasses etc. Join our fan page at [facebook.com/purplefriday](http://facebook.com/purplefriday). As we continue to struggle through tough economic times, it is important that we as a campus come together to celebrate what makes us similar — Truman State University and the color purple.

Sarah Seberger  
senior

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Serving the University community since 1909

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### 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.

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