

## OUR VIEW

### Registration changes confuse and waste time

If it ain't broke, why fix it? Registration Access Codes (RACs) are officially a thing of the past since the Registrar's Office and ITS proposed the change and discussed with administration for approval (see story, page 3). The Registrar's Office cited that students often lost RACs, had confusion entering in RACs at registration time and the massive amounts of paper used for distributing RACs as reasons for the change.

Instead, faculty advisers now are responsible for clearing students for registration each semester. The RACs are now gone forever.

Seriously? Are we as a student body so irresponsible that we can't hold on to an important piece of paper for a few weeks? Are we so dense that we can't read the difference between upper- and lower-case letters and type them in sequential order onto a computer screen?

The RAC system puts the student in charge of his or her own registration. Getting the code — whether by meeting with advisers or via e-mail — holding on to the code, being ready at registration time and putting the code in correctly was all up to students. Is it really that big of a responsibility that we can't handle it? And isn't this responsibility something we are supposed to experience in college?

Now, the registration power is in the hands of faculty advisers. For faculty, it is supposed to mean setting up a meeting with every single advisee, which is a change, no matter what the former policy was. We all know an adviser who previously passed RACs out via e-mail. And there doesn't seem to

be a reason for adviser and advisee to meet just to make sure advisees are prepared to register. E-mail is simply easier for everyone.

It is also more of a responsibility for advisers, who are now responsible for whether a student can get registered. Imagine the freak-out when a faculty member either forgets to register a student or incorrectly registers a student. No one comes between a Truman student and registering for classes unless they fear for their lives.

It is important for the University to work on cutting down paper costs. Getting rid of RAC codes on paper will save 6,000 to 7,000 sheets of paper every semester. But why is it necessary to get rid of the RAC system completely to save paper? Instead, the University could e-mail it to students or have students write it down. There are ways to save paper without giving the responsibility and the power of self-registration to faculty advisers, who probably don't want that responsibility anyway. If they wanted to be more responsible for their students, they would be teaching high school.

There seems to be no benefit to getting rid of RACs. This is a time when change isn't necessarily helpful or effective. It isn't making the whole registration process easier for students: It's putting up more red tape for students to cut through. Progress and improvement can be a positive thing, but progress for progress' sake just makes things like registration more complicated. Whether it is a new system to learn or it takes up more time, unnecessary change is only a pain.

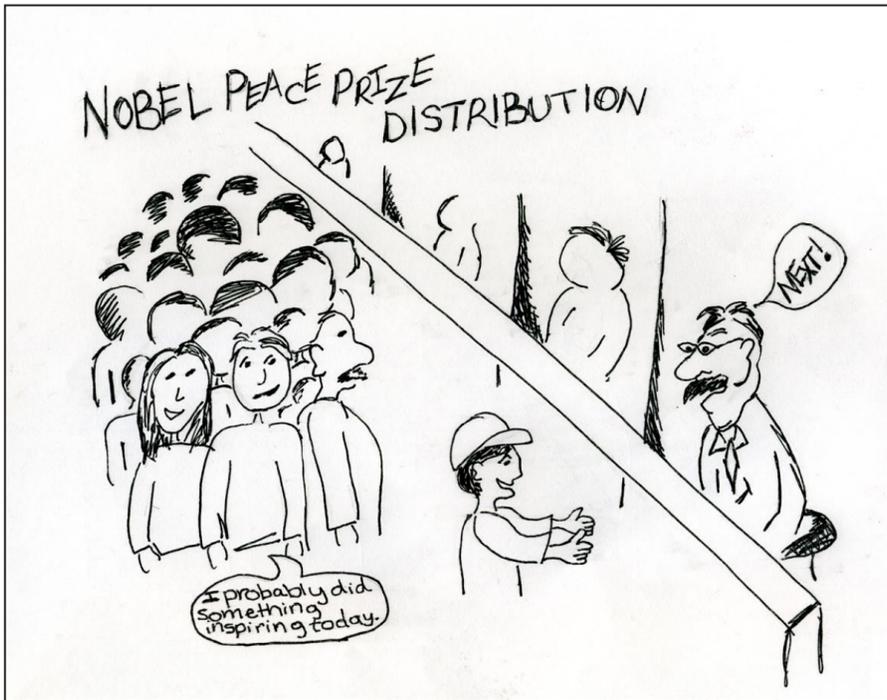
## CORRECTIONS

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.

• The swimming outline on page 15 of the Oct. 8 issue was incorrect. The men's swimming team placed 16th, not 20th, at nationals last spring.

## CARTOON

By Alex Boles



## Letters to the Editor

### Athletic fee helps more than athletes

The column "Athletic fee deserves student debate, vote" in the Oct. 8 issue of the Index displayed the general lack of knowledge concerning the athletic fee. What is more dismaying than that was the accurate front page story is overshadowed by the incorrect information offered by Ms. Skyles.

Most troubling is the claim that "this fee is helping only Truman athletics, something I do not care one bit about."

First of all, the claim that the athletic fee only benefits student athletes is completely false. While the primary purpose is to provide moneys to be used to improve athletic facilities, more than just the 470 student-athletes here at Truman benefit. We would like to reiterate that the ROTC use of the football field, as well as its use by intramural and club sports teams here at Truman. Also, in the future, we hope that concerts will find their way to Stokes Stadium. Moreover, sports other than football condition on the football field and it has been used by both soccer teams when their fields are unplayable due to weather. The artificial turf has helped club sports too by preserving the south field for their use. New curtains in Pershing Arena benefit not only the basketball and volleyball teams, but also health and exercise science classes held in the arena.

The athletic fee was also instituted to improve the safety of the environment that athletes participate in. Improvements to the weight

room make it a safer environment not only for student-athletes but the general student population who use it as part of their HES classes.

Additionally, any perceived imbalance in the distribution of funds, i.e. "despite what most think this fee does not pay solely for football," would only be exacerbated by the canceling of the fee. The next planned phase of spending would focus on improvements to Pershing, soccer, and other sports. The artificial turf has had tremendous benefits as stated previously. Future funds would not be spent on more of the same.

As you quoted Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering in your column, future ideas for the athletics fee include improvements to the Rugby field. This is NOT a facility improvement that benefits Truman athletics. This is not even something that "must" be done under the rules of the fee. Please do not paint the athletics department as something that exists only to benefit themselves. Having athletics is an important aspect of Truman's mission as a Liberal Arts and Sciences institution. In addition, the success and national recognition of our athletics teams only furthers to enhance and spread Truman's reputation thereby enhancing the value of your degree.

Ms. Skyles, we would like to personally invite you to any Truman athletic event this school year. It is sad to hear that you have attended only one, a trait you probably share with many of your peers. With 21 varsity sports, there is a variety of sports for any viewer. Attendance at a football or basketball game also provides you with the chance to see the performances of the Truman

cheerleaders, Showgirls, Statesman Marching Band and the Pep Band in winter.

We appreciate Ms. Skyles' honesty when she says that "I realize I am not an accurate measure of the entire student body." It is our hope that the student body will see that the Athletic Fee has worked as it was intended and improved the permanent condition of athletic facilities at Truman with positive externalities for the entire student body.

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Executive Board

### ROTC addresses misconception

I just wanted to inform the campus and community as a whole of the false statement that made its way into the Around the Quad section of the Oct. 8 edition of the Index. One student stated that he would protest "ROTC's use of airsoft arms." To the untrained eye of people unfamiliar with various weapons, it might well appear that we use equipment capable of firing projectiles. Even two years ago I might have thought the same thing. However, I can assure you that what we use to represent weapons for training are merely M16 replicas with a metal frame covered in solid rubber to imitate the weight and dimensions of an actual firearm. Again, they do not actually fire anything. If any cadet has used airsoft arms in relation to ROTC it was unknown to me or ROTC cadre, and without our consent.

David Atkinson  
Cadet Battalion Commander

## INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909

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### Editorial Policy

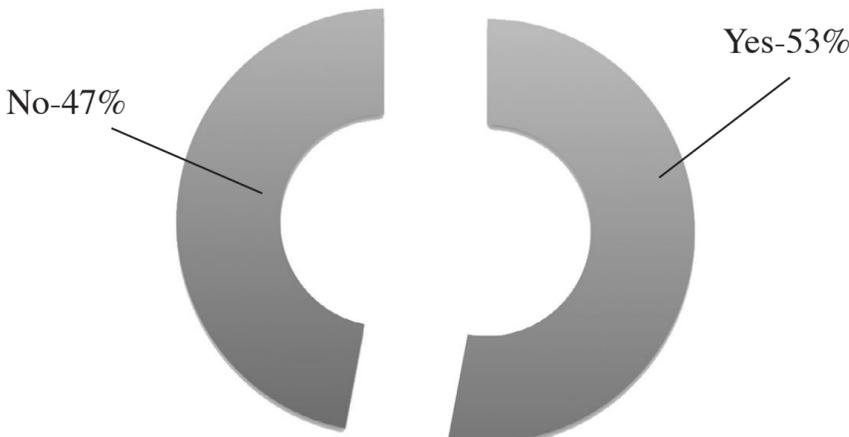
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## WEB POLL

Do you support the current athletic fee?



This week's question:

Are the changes in class registration policies helpful?

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