

# INDEX EDITORIAL

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Thursday, September 16, 2010

## OUR VIEW

### Potential pit bull ban won't stop dog attacks

Pit bulls have a bad rap. Let's face it, when walking through the park, many people avoid contact with the big, scary-looking dog. But does that justify banning the breed?

We as an editorial board bark an outright "no." Breed specific legislation has been banned in parts of many states including Illinois, Kansas, Colorado and Iowa. However, some surrounding communities, such as Hannibal, Mo., have enforced the pit bull ban, and Kirksville may be next. The Kirksville City Council is in the process of reviewing a proposed ordinance that would not allow any new pit bulls to live within city limits.

From July 2006 to March 2010, there were 46 reported dog bites in the Police Department's jurisdiction. However, only three of them were the fault of a pit bull while six were from terriers, and many other breeds, including poodles, beagles and German shepherds, were to blame for the rest. So why are only pit bulls being targeted?

Any animal has the potential to be a violent creature. It all depends on their owner. We understand that pit bulls are frequently the breed of choice when it comes to dog fighting. But once again, the dog is not to blame in this situation. It is the human who trains the animal to be violent.

This ordinance should not be put into place in Kirksville. Instead, we think the city should work harder to educate pet owners on the potential harms of pit bulls that are not properly trained and impose stricter licensing and registration laws to keep these tougher dogs off the streets.

When one specific breed is banned, it places a taboo on that breed. As a result, good pet owners and dogs are punished, even though not all pit bulls are aggressive creatures. Also, these types of bans provide a false sense of security. People will think that with

stereotypically dangerous dogs gone, they are safe to pet any fuzzy pup that passes by. However, that is far from the truth.

Councilmember Martha Rowe said last week that pit bulls have locking jaws, which makes it harder to release the dog from a victim in an attack situation. However, this is a myth, according to americanhumane.org. The jaws of pit bulls are exactly the same as any other dog. Also, there generally is a misconception that pit bulls have a stronger bite force than other dogs. This, too, is false, according to the website.

In 2005, Dr. Brady Barr from National Geographic conducted a test to see which breed of dog had the most bite pressure. A German shepherd, a Rottweiler and a pit bull (all weighing roughly the same) were tested using a bite sleeve equipped with a computer instrument. The pit bull was recorded to have the least amount of bite pressure of the three.

So why not ban German shepherds or Rottweilers? This proposed ban seems to be using some sort of breed discrimination. Pit bulls are no more dangerous than most other breeds of dogs.

Pit bulls, on their own, are actually friendly animals. They were considered great family dogs for decades and even were used as "nanny dogs" due to their excellent care for children. However, because of owners' thoughtless custody, the pit bull image has been turned into one of aggression.

Banning pit bulls will not solve the issue of dog attacks in Kirksville. Doing so would only increase the negative preconceptions that hang over the heads of many innocent pit bulls in this town. The city instead should focus its energies on regulating the actions and responsibilities of the pet owners rather than the dependent pets.

## 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 cartoon on page 4 of the Sept. 9 edition of the Index showed that \$16,651 was spent by the University on concrete foundation, plaque settings and landscaping for the new sculpture on campus. Only \$10,000 of it was funded by tuition or other local sources. The rest was donated and also funded by the Truman Foundation and the institutional Plant Fund.  
° An article on page 13 of the Sept. 9 edition of the Index said there were only two restaurants in La Plata. There are actually three: The Corner Café, Grandma's Home Cookin and The Red Rooster.  
° An article on page 14 of the Sept. 9 edition of the Index misidentified the name of the new acupuncture business. It is called Whole Woman Health: Acupuncture and Health Coaching. The phone number is 217-649-5902.

## CARTOON

By Sam Kyker



## Letters to the Editor

### Local acupuncturist clears up confusion

I am the acupuncturist who was interviewed in the Index last week. While I appreciate the reporter taking the time to meet with me, I would like to offer some further information and clarification on a few of the points that were made.

I hold both national and state certifications in acupuncture — it is licensed like other medical professions. I hold a Master's degree in Acupuncture and am in my eighth year of practice. Our family is new to this area.

The results of acupuncture can be immediate, as was mentioned in the article. People often feel better when they leave than when they came in. The goal is to create lasting, not temporary, changes. That said, to create a lasting change it is important that treatment be consistent and regular, similar to how one would approach physical therapy. How often a person comes in depends on the chronicity and severity of the condition that is being treated.

I did not state that the reporter's headache went away because of an endorphin release. My job is to balance the electromagnetic channels to promote the body's healing mechanisms. A side effect of acupuncture appears to be that people often get an endorphin release that leads to them feeling more calm and relaxed — sometimes patients even fall asleep during treatment.

In speaking to the reporter about her headache, I did not say tiredness was the cause. I'm not in a position to say the cause of anyone's condition. What I do is encourage people to listen to what their body is trying to tell them. Would they benefit from more sleep, more water, less caffeine? I believe that addressing our lifestyle issues is paramount to overall health.

Finally, there is a wide range of conditions that can be treated with acupuncture. (The World Health Organization lists over forty.) I will support whoever comes in seeking treatment. That said, my specialty is Women's Health and

my website name is [wholwomanaacupuncture.com](http://wholwomanaacupuncture.com). (The site is also partially under construction.) My contact number is 217-649-5902. The introductory offer of \$35 a treatment applies to any student (not just Truman students) and is valid until Oct. 11. Please contact me directly, not the office of Dr. Haman.

I recognize that acupuncture is still relatively new to this country and is often misunderstood. I would be happy to answer questions if anyone would like more information or further clarification about this modality.

Holly Arbuckle  
L.Ac., M. Ac.

### Strip clubs should remain unregulated

Molly Skyles' "Strip club regulations inhibit rights" piece in the Sept. 9 edition of the Index is very brave precisely because it is unlikely to get much support from we on the traditional left or from the religious far right, who funded the extraordinary puritanical, male-passed law she is complaining about, in terms of its intended crushing of livelihoods for students and single parents, et cetera, in the sex worker industries in this state.

Because of her unpopular message, those of us who have kept an all too easy silence about this dubious measure now should speak up before our cowardice leads to even more restrictions on liberty and livelihood curtailment, if the Missouri hypocritical far right, as is, alas, expected to expand its hold on the two state legislatures this fall in anti-Obama racist chauvinism.

Indeed, it is depressing that nominally progressive Democrat Gov. Jay Nixon failed to veto this appalling, sexist measure last June. Although he knows well that a network of extremely rich Republican law firms and ex-GOP bible bashing legislators are bound up with its prosecuting "curfews" Skyles correctly denounces. It's all part of the far right's ongoing cultural war "against

the 1960s," with an added nastiness on all of us.

In that, during hard times caused to us all by their banker friends' greed, their view we all are "expected" to give up on sex, art and other pollutants, in their pursuit of, well, money for money's "family values" greed-sake credo.

However, having said where I concur with Skyles, I have some real disagreement when she then contradicts her woman's career choice and men's entertainment choice.

Sure, Molly, there is a societal "double standard" in that the Internet is left largely unregulated by the same would-be over-moralists against exotic dancer clubs. I would even go myself some way down a Skyles line of some thus real regulation, as the very liberal Dutch parliament did earlier the same summer. In its own banning of bestiality Internet, Dutch or global, videos as all of that is not just distastefully pathetic, it's involuntary to at least, yes, the dumber creatures involved. But, then we have to be wary, I detest, fight, joke about and honor or mock such Internet videos too for instance. If "real," I, too, would even ban them.

Yet, in regards to the last products, I clearly am in a minority. I have even seen, by late night work accident, Pickler Memorial Library grown-up students laughing at such idiocies and cruelties.

So, Index, in conclusion I think, alas, the Internet has to be left alone, as should the strip clubs — both to be free from the war-lover obscene male puritan right and, alas, some feminists who come after legal abortion entitlement women. Good for Skyles, in not thus skirting difficult issues that others than the both of us are keeping a dangerous silence upon. Before the puritan right comes knocking on your 2011 Downtown Cinema "foreign" film festival next door, as they will next if you don't befriend the burlesque dancer ladies, now, here in rural Missouri or even in the "1960s" defense of freedom and sexuality values.

Larry Iles  
Kirksville resident

## INDEX

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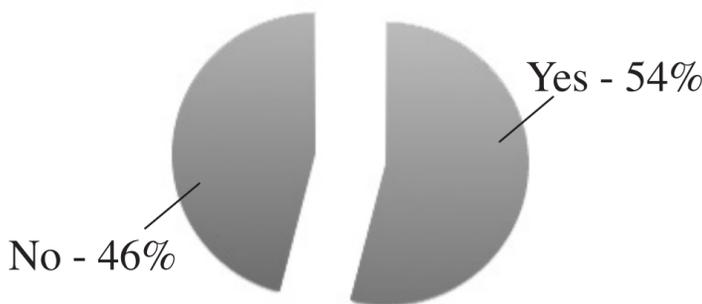
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Should students be more involved in major University decisions?



This week's question:

Should a mosque be built near ground zero?

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