

OUR VIEW

Senate budget decisions should benefit students

Sometimes it is difficult to remember that Student Senate is not just another organization on campus. Sure, it has a president, like other organizations. It has T-shirts, meetings and even social activities.

But Student Senate is not just another group on campus. And, as such, it should be held to a different standard.

Student Senate receives its funding directly from each and every student. We pay \$4 per year so that Senate can represent the interests of students to the leaders of this University. During times of budget cuts, we're lucky to have a governing body whose sole purpose is to think about what is best for us.

It seems our best interests, however, have been somewhat forgotten this semester. It is time to remind Senate of what those are.

Senate will vote Sunday night whether to vote on a tabled resolution of \$2,000 to send eight senators to the American Student Government Association Conference in Chicago. The resolution might have an amendment attached to ask senators to pay for part of the trip themselves that would lower the cost.

We don't think this trip is in the best interest of all students. In fact, that \$2,000 really will benefit only eight people. And while Senate's job is to think about us, we can't neglect the fact that for Senate to represent us, we have to be heard. We need to speak up when we hear about spending we might find inappropriate.

Now, students might have differing opinions on how that money is best spent, but it is unlikely the majority of the student body would choose to spend \$2,000 on a day conference to Chicago for eight people. Eight people who are supposed to be thinking about how that money can best benefit the student body.

Besides acting in the best interest of students, senators should be giving their constituents more opportunity to speak out against proposed money motions they do not support. In this case, however, Senate abandoned their normal

rules and voted on the money motion the same night. If the money motion to fund this trip had passed, students would have had no opportunity to come to Senate and discourage the money motion or to speak to one of their senators and attempt to dissuade them from supporting it. Again, it seems this action was not handled in a manner that considered the best interest of students, but rather was handled in an attempt to simply pass the money motion quickly and quietly.

The Student Senate Ethical Code of Conduct states that above even personal opinion, senators should think in the best interest of students. Sure, no student would turn down a free trip to Chicago. But senators shouldn't be thinking about what will be the most fun for themselves, they should be thinking about what is best for the student body that is trusting them.

The code also states "Senators shall strive to be accessible to students, communicate students' concerns to the Senate, and report Senate discussion, decisions, and actions back to constituents." With the proposal of a same night vote and the lack of updated information concerning this use of funds on Student Senate's website (there is no information on records from the 2010-11 school year online).

Student Senate needs to be more focused on what is best for students when budgeting and spending money, especially since all of their budget comes from the Student Activities Fee and the extra rolled over from last year's Fee.

Public service is about serving others, bottom line. And sometimes that means giving up cool conferences because if other organizations can't afford to travel, government leaders shouldn't either. Student Senate must hold itself to a higher standard, but students must hold them to that standard as well, by speaking up about what they do or do not support. And until both parties start upholding those standards, our money will continue to be spent in a manner that doesn't benefit us.

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.

° On page 3 of the Sept. 23 edition of the Index, the house pictured was misidentified as the A.T. Still Mansion. The house is actually the Charles Still Mansion.

CARTOON

By Sam Kyker



Letters to the Editor

Television benefits all aspects of society

I am writing in response to a column published in the Sept. 23 edition of the Index titled "Television destroys humanity, individuality and sanity". The gist of Mr. Hitzel's argument is that television so controls our lives that we cannot make a single decision without referencing a popular program first, and that it causes complete intellectual paralysis.

I must argue, however, that TV has brought us some of the greatest events and social commentary of the 20th and 21st centuries. The first moon landing, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the riots of the Civil Rights Movements in Birmingham are just a few examples of important events broadcasted on TV that changed the world. Until the advent of the Internet, television was the quickest way of getting news out and obviously had a very important impact on the current shape of our society as a whole.

Secondly, one cannot so cavalierly claim that every program on TV is crap. Even the garbage that political pundits spew has its own place in the media. Indeed, Keith Olbermann and Glenn Beck should be thanked for exposing just how crazy the fringes of our political spectrum are. They did not create the insanity, merely encouraged people to show their true political colors, which has in turn created a niche for intelligent political analysis and humor to highlight very real and significant issues on shows like "The Colbert Report" and "The Daily Show."

Thirdly, there is much to be learned about our culture from watching popular TV. It would be fair to say that shows like Cops and Jersey Shore, which are fun, mindless garbage, have shown us what not to be. So before drawing the conclusion that TV is a waste of time, an "idiot box" and way too influential in our lives, ask yourself, John, what influenced you to sound so egotistical?

Connor Riley
junior

Student gives options for adviser alternative

After reading the column "Alternative to adviser cuts could benefit students" in the Sept. 23 edition of the Index, I think it is a perfect solution for part of the budget cut, and I think the ideas proposed could be very beneficial as well as efficient.

As a freshman, I was just pondering a few questions the other day that, I didn't know if they were important enough to schedule an appointment for, but that I still needed clarification about. I wondered if there were students somewhere in a resource that I had overlooked who could answer some quick, but important questions about schedules. So, I think some student co-advisers would be perfect. Just like the column said, it would provide students with some experience outside of just sitting at a desk, as well as enable them to practice communication and relation skills. They could also learn more about advising and their own class scheduling.

However, instead of just placing any random student in the position, there should be an interest poll taken first to see if the students would want that type of scholarship job. If there is enough interest, then when students apply, a sheet could be filled out with what areas they know most about, a rating of their knowledge and what classes they have taken to see who has specific knowledge of certain subjects. Their list of knowledge could be posted outside the offices and on the Internet with the times students will be working so that students could see when to call or go in for questions about certain classes or general things.

The adviser could then provide them with a sheet of basic facts that they can use over the phone or with walk-ins. This would be an excellent opportunity for the students looking for something different in their selection of scholarship jobs, students with quick questions about a class or just general scheduling and keeping the advisers free to help more students with the nitty-gritty details of their scheduling.

Alicia Kimberlin
freshman

Traveling to Nepal provides spectacles

The summer of 2010 has already crossed its threshold, and it's not too early to pick up a new calendar and start making some marks for summer of 2011. If you are planning to make your next summer more memorable and adventurous and are confused about the right destination, then the only destination that can satisfy your need could be Nepal.

Nepal is a country full of snow-covered majestic mountains, rolling hills, and green plains with more than 35 percent of its total land covered with forest. The diversified flora and fauna,

along with many endangered species, makes Nepal a natural zoo and a book of nature. Contrasting climatic conditions and diversified topology, along with the deepest gorge and the highest peak in the world, has made Nepal a nation where many natural impossibilities have become the reality. The nation with eight of the world's highest peaks, including Mt. Everest and the great panorama of Himalayas, has glorified Nepal all across the globe.

Nepal has a glorified history as old as 4,000 years and has been a symbol of unity, peace and harmony, from the day of its existence. It is the birth place of Gautam Buddha, the Light of Asia and the land of brave Gurkha soldiers. Nepal is a land enriched with cultural heritages and diverse religions. There are more than 3,000 temples and monasteries and as many as 3 million gods in the Nepalese religion. Many old temples and historic palaces have been enlisted as a property of World Heritage. One can easily experience the love of arts, culture and religion prevalent in Nepalese people and society by looking at a piece of architecture. Most of the people in Nepal are Hindus, but Nepal has been a common ground for practicing other different religions. Religious harmony and hospitality have reflected the peace-loving heart of every Nepalese citizen.

Nepal is a nation with diversified castes and ethnic groups. Each caste and ethnicity is based upon the type of occupation followed by ancestors in the past. There are 103 distinct caste and ethnic groups with over 92 spoken local languages. Agriculture and tourism are the main sources of income for most of Nepalese people. Development of science and technology has also become remarkable. However, the love of the traditional occupation of art and crafts, handmade pottery, sculpture and paintings has earned a great respect in the society. Anyone can simply imagine the love, passion and pleasure Nepalese people have in their culture and traditions. Similarly, the soothing and entertaining music and dance, in addition to the folk tales and lories, are the inseparable part of Nepalese society.

To sum up, Nepal is a land where the nature merges with culture and the base of religion is reflected in the art and architecture. Incredible fusion of nature, culture, hospitality and peace has been able to make Nepal a hot destination for many tourists from all across the world, and I hope you would also be the one out of many.

Ravin Poudel
senior

INDEX

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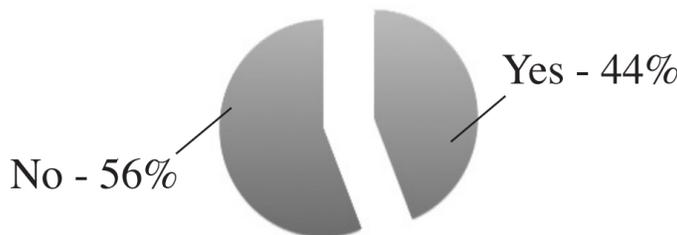
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