

# EDITORIAL

## Our View

### University cuts only begin with men's golf team

The announcement that Truman Athletics would cut the men's golf team after the spring season (see story, page 1) has rocked the campus and the Kirksville community. But for many, that announcement, along with scholarship cuts to wrestling, baseball, men's swimming and men's tennis, was not a surprise.

Obviously, for 11 men at Truman, their world has changed drastically. The Truman State University Men's Golf Facebook page was full of messages of support and confusion this week:

"We have struggled to find the evidence that supports why this decision was made, as it has yet to be presented to us. As a team we are now committed to finding a better solution to this decision."

We are the last group of people who support cuts of student organizations on campus. But we're past the point of avoiding budget cuts. They're happening everywhere, not just in athletics. Unfortunately, Truman Athletics has a target on its back as far as budget cuts go. We're an academically-minded school with the most sports of any public school in Missouri and of all the public schools in the MIAA. Standing out from the crowd in academic or athletic performance is one thing. Standing out of the crowd for an excess of sports in a budget crisis is another. Athletics Director Jerry Wollmering said the Athletics Task Force examined 145 Div. II schools in the country, and only eight had more than 21 sports, at least for a few more months. Most of those schools had at least \$5 million athletic budgets. Truman also had 21 sports. And its athletic budget is \$3.8 million, according to University documents. We're guessing this won't be the last cut to Truman Athletics in the near future. But at this point in time it could have been much worse.

The evidence the men's golf team is searching for might not be the most obvious. Was golf the most expensive sport? No. Did they have an abundance of scholarships that could be awarded to another sport? No, considering the team was only awarded \$3,000 in scholarships in 2010-11, the lowest of any University sport.

So will the \$72,100 worth of athletic scholarships Truman awarded to these five teams (and soon to be taken away) fix the budget crisis? No.

But, as the University has tried to do throughout this entire year, an effort seems to have been made to cut strategically, not based entirely on cost, but on other factors that affect the University.

Recruitment, number of team members, success rate, fan base, opportunity for revenue streams, coaching, team legacy and visibility in the community and the fact that men's golf has zero full-time positions probably all went into the decision process.

Some have argued that Truman will lose the tuition dollars of these 11 team members. It is true that some team members might transfer schools to play golf. But as one of the smallest teams on campus, we're losing at maximum 11 Truman students. That will be heartbreaking for them and for the people who know them, but Truman will survive the potentially small amount of lost tuition dollars, because students will almost always come to Truman for academics. The struggle the University will face, however, is that gifted students often have other interests besides academics — like sports.

Right now the elimination and scholarship cuts probably feel like a death in the family for the athletic department and especially for the members the men's golf team. People are angry, confused and disappointed. But it has become painfully obvious this year that we all are going to have to get used to that disappointment. Men's golf is the first in what will be a long line of cuts throughout the University. Do any of us, including the administration, want to lose men's golf? No.

The best thing any of us can do now is to make sure the administration knows how the Truman community feels about our sports, our organizations and our academics. If you are passionate about something, tell the administration how important it is to maintain funding for that organization or club. Don't wait until the cuts are made to raise your voices. Prove to be part of the new direction Truman is headed toward. Participate in the budget conversation and what should and shouldn't be saved, because things at Truman are changing. Don't be blindsided when the University cuts your program of choice. As Truman receives fewer and fewer dollars from the state it will have to make sacrifices. Men's golf is but the first in a long, long line.

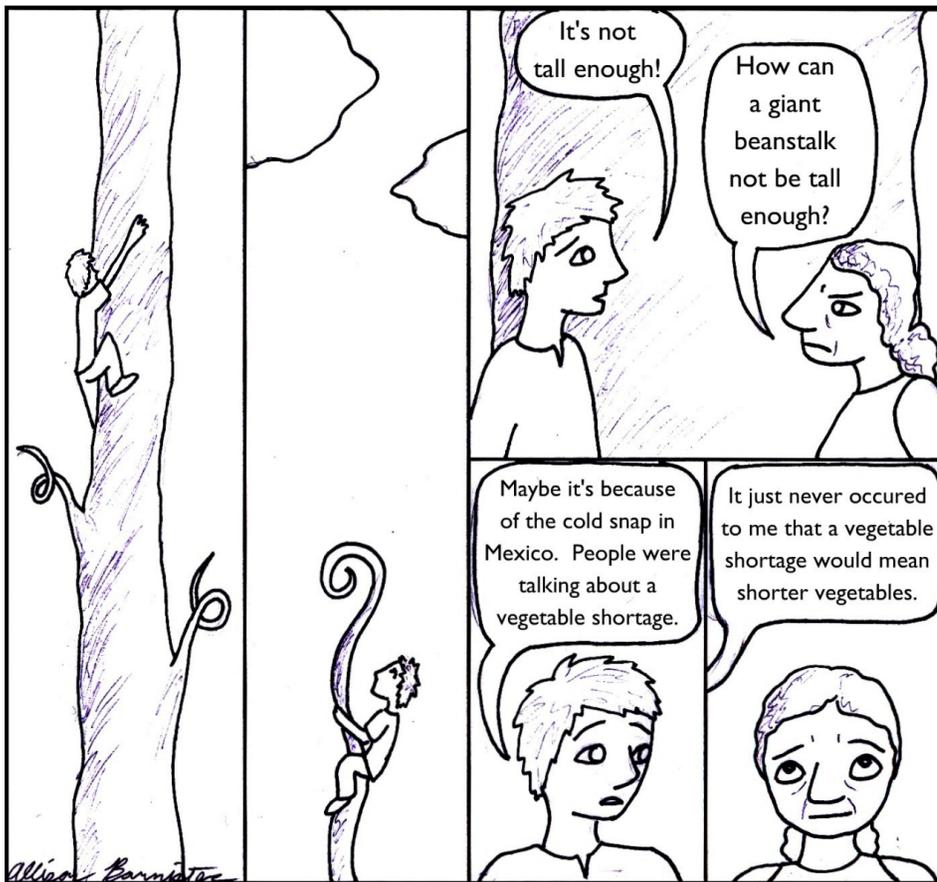
## corrections

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 dental school story on page 1 of the Feb. 24 edition of the Index misidentified the A.T. Still University Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees. The ATSU Board of Governors unanimously supported bringing the school to Kirksville while the ATSU Board of Trustees may or may not be approving capital request.

## cartoon

By Allison Bannister



## Letters to the Editor

### Truman handled winter weather reasonably

I want to commend Truman for standing strong this winter. Even when every school within three state lines is closed down, we do not.

Our outdoor campus stays open so we can still drive through the natural blizzard and get a proper education.

Sarah Shapiro  
freshman

### Famous Kirksvillians must be recognized

I was totally beguiled by Amanda Herzberg's piece in the Feb. 24 edition of the Index, reminding of this, all too often self-blindered to the grave point of limited myopia, community of the late star and accomplished Broadway theatre actress, Geraldine Page. We have yet another world class famous Kirksvillian. Why this neglect since, in the civil war history and in other contexts of living history, if actually recalled in the first place, does equal heritage jobs and tourist job recovery potential for now.

Funnily enough, I have been "going on," for many unbelievably years,

about Page whose 1960s roles were often very superb in that controversial decade, defiant of crappy, outworn, societal, sexist, homophobic conservatism. But Kirksville has an impact on my native "swinging" 1960s era Britain has made itself surprisingly felt. Again, like Page, I have been for many eras unprintingly "rabbiting on" about Dr. Stephen Ward, with people looking at me as if I was a total delusional tall-tales peddler.

Ron Montgomery of global business fame and future Kirksville forever removal-leaving, briefly approached my same table. In the course of chatting, he gave me details about his dad's carousing and friendships with Ward as he was here locally picking up his "OS" qualifications in the 1950s, which I know from my own historian study of Ward over many years to match the real brave and alas suicidal man. Who, as the brilliant film scandal song dramatizes, was made out a traitor scapegoat in the Profumo crisis in the UK in which he was accused oddly of procuring girls from his Harley Street doctor's practice to sleep with both his Tory defense minister friend, Profumo, and the Russian's UK army/navy attaché at one and the same time instant.

In conclusion, an embarrassed, stodgy in sex, "elderly" conservative government after hypocritically lying to the commons about its own guy's married pool party habits at the Ward-

Lord Astor's London villas, tried a frame up of Ward by saying he was a KGB spy. In his suicide note, Ward not only denied this smear, and subsequent journalists have agreed, but he too said UK MI5 had long deployed him and his worker girls to be their patriotic agents no less in cleaner, freer sexuality.

What's intriguing from Kirksville's role is threefold. One, the KCOM ancestor outfit to A.T. Still University never responded to tentative researcher inquiries I made years ago. Two, Montgomery confirms Ward was not just a popular man with Chicago expeditions, but a fine watercolor artist with paintings in lifelong demand. Three, like U.S. doctors here once did his innovative medicine was attacked, unfairly, in OS degree.

Finally, like it or not, Ward's discovery of another hedonistic Kirksville influenced a swinging UK. As not only did the Tory Macmillan government seem new-era stupid. But, less stupidly, the Beatles and the Rolling Stones all arose on his unduly savaged, over-pillled corpse just as Page's own career took off elsewhere from here in our rural forgotten roots. Why forgotten as history, herstory, heritage is, yes, complex sharply controversial if properly not forgotten in the Index.

Larry Iles  
Kirksville resident

## INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909

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### Editorial Policy

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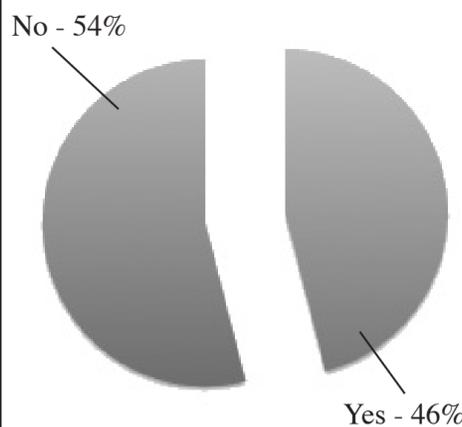
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## Web Poll

Would a hookah bar do well in town?



This week's web poll question:

Did you watch the Oscars?

Vote online at [trumanindex.com](http://trumanindex.com)