

# INDEX EDITORIAL

## OUR VIEW

### Campus safety measures should take top priority

We pay a pretty penny to get an education at this highly selective liberal arts institution. Expert educators, the latest technology and environmentally friendly buildings are a top concern here. That is all fine and dandy. However, campus safety should not be placed at the bottom of the list of concerns.

Recently, some of the emergency phones on campus have been broken (see story, page 1). The phone located in Red Barn Park has been broken and wrapped in a trash bag for some time without repairs. This part of campus seems very dark and remote late at night, and now its only glimmer of protection is gone.

Kirksville is not a dangerous city fraught with murders or serious crimes. Although this fact is comforting, let's not be naïve — the world is not a perfect place. Danger exists, and that means not everybody is entirely comfortable walking alone late at night through poorly lit areas. And they shouldn't have to be. It should be the job of the University to provide us with safety assistance sources on campus if something were to happen.

Tom Johnson, director of the Department of Public Safety, said the emergency phones have been used only once for an actual emergency in the last seven years. Although this number is small, it is no determinant for what that number could be in the future. Even if it will be used only once in the next seven years, it should work. Therefore, the University must address these safety concerns before it is too late. Fixing the emergency phones should be a preventative measure, not one considered only in the aftermath of a safety incident.

In some cases, it might be better not to have the emergency phones than to have broken ones. A student in danger and seeking assistance

could run up to a phone, only to discover it is broken. That student could have used the time wasted on the broken emergency phone to run away from an attacker. Faulty emergency phones provide a false sense of security.

Fixing a single phone costs approximately \$10,000. We understand that the University is facing budget cuts and has to prioritize its funds. However, safety must remain a top priority. Having newly renovated residence halls is nice, but not nearly as nice as the knowledge that there are safety measures in place on campus that will actually work. There should never be a price tag on our safety. The University's failure to fix the emergency phones in a timely manner says that our well-being is an afterthought, inferior to the superficial and exterior improvements on campus that affect the school's overall image.

During the past year, the University has taken a step in the right direction to ensure our safety with the installation of the Perimeter Access System. This system requires a student ID to gain entrance to the residence halls after 10:30 p.m. Although this is a good way to keep those living on campus safe, it does little to benefit those who live off campus yet still spend the majority of their time on campus. All students deserve adequate safety.

Truman is a university that prides itself on excellence, and students should be proud to say they attend such a credible institution. However, our safety should not be compromised to attain that excellence. Truman must fix the broken emergency phones to prove that student safety is a priority and that the security of each student is valued. It might seem like an unnecessary measure, but if working emergency phones helps save just one student from danger, the cost is worth it.

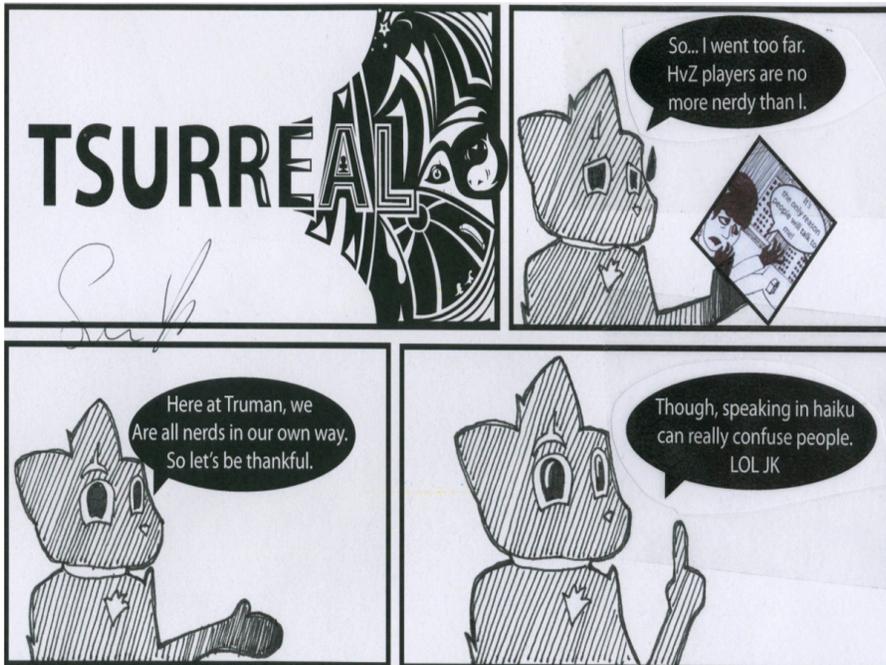
## CORRECTIONS

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.

° On page 2 of the Nov. 11 edition of the Index, the cutline below the photo referred to the movie as "Brotherhood of Hate." The film is actually titled "Brotherhood of Murder."  
° On page 13 of the Nov. 11 edition of the Index, the date of Grant Imahara's appearance was listed as on Friday, Nov. 12. It was actually on Saturday, Nov. 13.  
° The photos on page 3 of the Nov. 11 edition of the Index were submitted by Alison Abbenhaus of aaphotos.

## CARTOON

By Sam Kyker



## Letters to the Editor

### HvZ player upset by Index cartoon

HvZ is a fun game. Like any other sport or activity, when the game is through, the players all sit to complain or reminisce about the events. Also, like any other sport, the participants are varied and can't be so easily categorized. Many of us are probably nerds or geeks, but there are those among us who are athletes and socialites. Many members of the Office of Residence Life are quite fond of HvZ as well.

The players of this game are diverse and, in general, pretty awesome. I'm sure we'd all be glad to stop and talk to anyone with questions or concerns. We love the game, and most of us remember that it is just a game.

That being said, when I saw a cartoon on the Index website Nov. 11, I was shocked and angry. To think that someone could be so foolish as to attempt to lump all HvZ players into this generic and pathetic image is just mind-boggling. The image doesn't represent any idea that I've come to know of HvZ, and it also doesn't accurately represent anyone I know who plays the game. I'm sorry to even know that this came from Truman, where I would have expected a higher standard of criticism.

To claim that the game is poorly

run is one thing, but to attempt to belittle the players on such a personal level is just rude, not to mention completely unfounded. This middle-school-styled bullying should be left behind long before the college age. Grow up and learn to embrace your inner child that knows it doesn't get much better than attacking people with foam darts and socks to relieve some stress.

Zach Minute  
senior

### More commentary on election expected

Even in fundamentally conservative media, we can but hope for a commentary or two from progressives on the outcome of the recent melancholy U.S. and local elections now that space does not have to be mercifully "bought" in gross favoritism toward the GOP and its satellite/FOX TV chauvinistic causes.

One, unstinging congratulations to the three honored local Kirksville heroines who fought the right wing tidal wave, unsung and unhonored galore, two of them professors and one a history student. To classics and English veteran TSU professors, Bridget Jones and Christine Harker, well done in both your letters, your door postings and your panelist

appearances. For the successfully state passed "Prop" outlawing the puppy mills and insisting on pet care that is feasible. But not howlingly over-crowded, as, obviously, one has to hear in walks down to campus in unhappy fellow and feline caged critters.

Then, to history major senior Olivia Sandbothe, for a superb flyer article I and others in the Progressive movement were able to circulate around this town to make up for the non-official candidate "non-appearance" or any Democrat congressional candidate against millionaire, GOP anti-health care Blaine Luetkemeyer. By Olivia's piece, she joined in the Monitor, Columbian Missourian better funded students in highlighting Moberly salesman Jeff Reed's massive "write-in" alternative candidacy that secured 95 votes in Adair alone in wildfire resentment at the likes of such Rightist fanatic wreckers of the poor and women's entitlements to decency health rights.

Of course, commiserations to victims like State Rep. Rebecca McClanahan for battling against all the upper middle class biased media odds. But must we as a community lose her expertise, given the "stalled" provost search in Academic Affairs still technical vacancy and her thus recently superb "anti-cuts" Jefferson City expertise?

Larry Iles  
Kirksville resident

## INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909

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### Editorial Policy

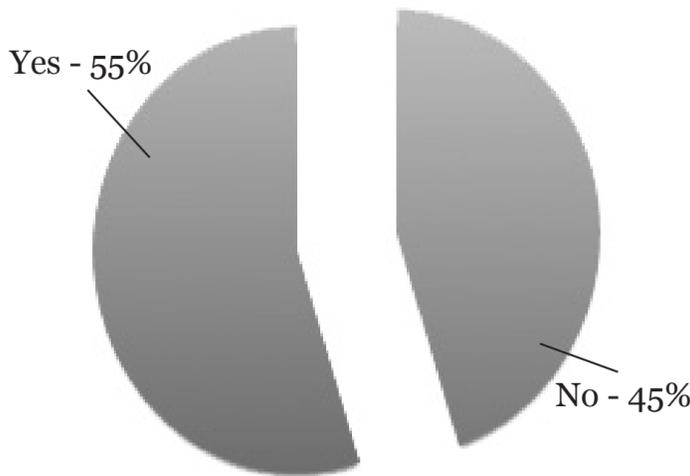
The Index is published Thursdays during the school year by students at Truman State University, Kirksville, MO 63501. The first copy is free, and additional copies cost 50 cents each. The production offices are located in Barnett Hall. We can be reached by phone at 660-785-4449. The Index is a designated 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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## WEB POLL

Are you happy about the election results?



This week's question:

Should the tenure system at Truman be revised?

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