

Our View

Student fees sometimes beneficial

Although internet speed, limited library hours and an environmentally sound campus are not the central issues to a college experience, they do affect students' everyday lives. Thanks to a task force created through an executive order by Aaron Malin, president of the Student Association, many of these small, student-identified issues could be remedied.

We support Malin's creation of a task force to investigate adding a small student fee of up to address issues affecting all Truman State students such as increasing internet speed, fixing ITS issues, "green" initiatives or longer library hours.

While we're weary of being "nickel-and-dimed" further by campus organizations losing funds as state funding decreases, we appreciate that this proposed fee would benefit students while to increasing Truman's appeal to prospective students and parents. We applaud the efforts of Student Senate to find innovative ways to fund, preserve and improve aspects of Truman, such as Pickler Memorial Library through the library fee. These are essential to our experience as students, but we caution that fees are not the long-term solution to budget cuts.

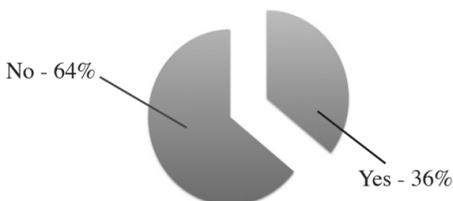
We appreciate their garnering of student input before such a fee is implemented. If students are willing to pay for these benefits, then Truman should take advantage of their willingness to improve the University. With the rapidly rising costs of college during a recessed economy, care should be taken regarding students' bank accounts.

Malin should work to keep students informed with as many specifics as possible so we know how the fee would be used. While we support the addition of a student fee allocated to solving these widespread student issues, we don't want to see these initiatives used to circumvent increasing tuition and would be much less likely to support an ambiguous initiative calling for a general student fee. Student fees should be supported by students and used to benefit all students.

Student fees, when proposed and implemented responsibly, can better allow the student body to have a say in their college experience. If the student body is willing to fund an improvement, whether it be bettering ITS, creating an environmentally conscious policy or longer library hours, then Truman should be responsive but cautious.

Web Poll

Would you attend monthly Student Senate meetings if given the opportunity?



*out of 28 votes

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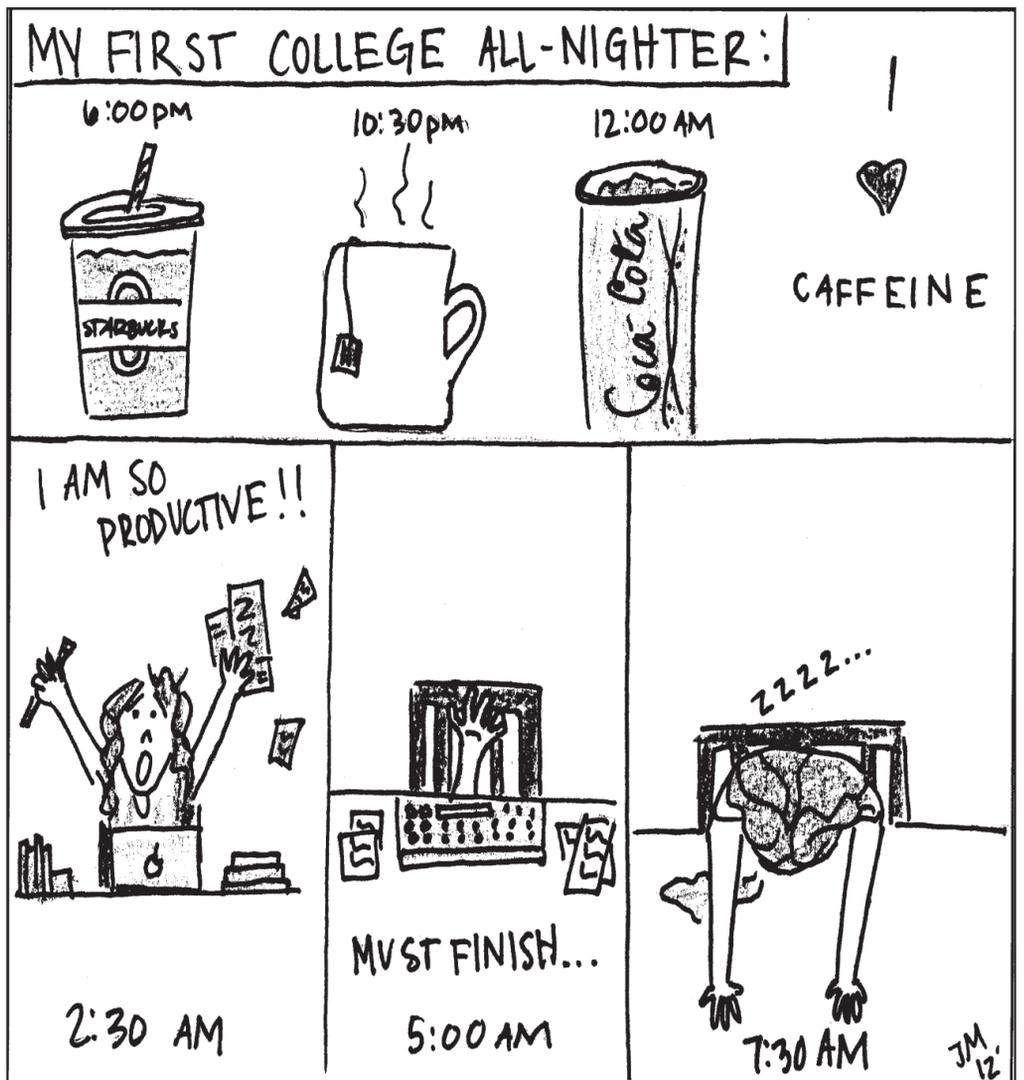
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Cartoon

By Jenn Marks



Go ahead and tell the truth



Zach Vicars

Throughout the last four years, I have written nearly 60 columns for this newspaper. The subject matter I've chosen to tackle has varied widely — from Super Bowl ads to Planned Parenthood and back again. Every now and then, I'll have someone ask me, "What's your column about?" or "What's the purpose of your column?" For a long time, I didn't know how to respond. But now, for my final column, I think I've finally come up with an answer.

The purpose of this column is to tell the truth.

That focus might not be very descriptive — and it's certainly not original — but that's been my goal all along. I haven't always done the best job, and many times I've been heavy with truth and short with love.

Still, I'd like to thank all of you who have read my columns. However you feel about me or my opinions, I'd ask you all to continue to seek the truth.

If my time at this paper has taught me anything, it's that telling the truth isn't always easy or popular. Our post-modern context is fundamentally opposed to any idea of absolute

truth. Nevertheless, I'm going to take one last attempt at telling the truth — whatever the backlash might be.

The truth is this: for a few thousand years, human beings have been trying to carve out their existence on their own. Whether by military might or scientific discovery, we have been trying to become little kings of this planet and lords of the universe. After millennia of trial and error, you would think that we would have figured out how to save ourselves — especially since the Enlightenment, which taught us that humans are the pinnacle of all wisdom, knowledge and rationality.

But today, we humans have managed to make a bigger mess of ourselves than ever before. Our 3-pound "Enlightened" brains haven't managed to figure out how to live at peace with one another. During the 20th century alone, some 160 million people were killed during wars and genocides, according to historian Piero Scaruffi. That would be the equivalent of wiping out half of the current U.S. population. Today, a deadly virus called HIV is literally tearing apart an entire continent. Famine plagues large portions of the globe — not because we don't produce enough food to feed this planet, but because we can't get along well enough to distribute it to our neighbors.

And if you think these consequences of human failings only affect faraway places, think again. I visited with a man today who was in a platoon of 37 men in Vietnam. After a brutal tour, he was the only one that came home. Today he lives alone, deeply wounded by the tragedies he witnessed. Throughout the United States, 22 percent of all pregnancies (excluding miscarriages) are aborted,

according to the Guttmacher Institute. More children in America grow up fatherless than ever before. As I mentioned in my last column, 1 in 3 girls are sexually abused by the age of 18, according to advocacycenter.org. Tragically, more readers were upset that I called those women "innocent" than by the fact that they had been so brutally mistreated.

The truth is the human experiment has failed. If we were left to ourselves, our selfishness would lead to more war, more disease, more famine, more divorce, more abortion and more isolation and more death. The truth is: we can't do this on our own. We need a Savior.

And the truth is that a Savior has come. That's the good news. I've spent much of my four years here telling bad news — going on a tirade here and a rant there about the sorry state of our culture. But I've dedicated very little time to telling the Good News, which is that a man named Jesus Christ came to save the world of humans from themselves. When we needed a Savior most, God himself came to our rescue. Because of what he has done, we can overcome evil and turn away from our selfish desires which have led to so much heartache and suffering throughout the centuries.

That is the truth. That's what I hope this column has been about. And that's the truth I'm going to spend the rest of my life telling. Thank you all, once again. Go and tell the truth.

Zach Vicars is a senior philosophy/religion and linguistics major from St. Charles, MO.

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, sports editor 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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