

EDITORIAL

Our View

Expressing dissent must follow hierarchy

As a media outlet, we do not shy away from controversy — if something upsets, confuses or intrigues us, we do our best to get the facts and keep you informed.

Junior Meghan McDonnell, however, has taken her dissent with Ken Read, the chair of the Board of Governors and owner of Heritage House Realty, way too far, while voicing her concerns and embarrassing the University.

Read owns property on either side of an 18-by-100 foot space on the 400 block of South Franklin Street. This space was city-owned, and a committee formed to petition to turn it into a dog park. However, that initiative failed at City Council last week, and the space was given to Read instead.

It sounds like a done deal — Read owns the land so he can do with it what he chooses. However, McDonnell wrote a letter to Gov. Jay Nixon requesting to remove Read from the Board because his conduct was “detrimental to the welfare of the student body and the reputation of the University” (see story, page 3). McDonnell also encouraged other students via a Facebook post to contact Nixon about Read.

The letter is lacking facts. It claims Read was tearing down potential historic buildings, yet no evidence of this has been shown. The letter also attacks Read’s character, saying he claimed these initiatives were done to benefit students when they really were for personal gain. There also is no evidence of this. Read is a realty company owner. Yes, building houses and apartments will benefit his business, but he also is providing student housing close to campus. We don’t see that as a problem.

Prior to owning the land, Read tore down trees on the green space. We agree this was not the best decision on Read’s part, but it does not merit going directly to Governor Nixon to start an impeachment process.

Trying to remove Read by going to Nixon makes the University look disjointed and unable to handle its problems. The University is facing looming budget cuts, and we shouldn’t be giving the Governor’s Office any reason to mistrust our managing capabilities.

We don’t want to discourage dissent, but we think you must follow the hierarchy of power. Instead of contacting Nixon first, McDonnell and anyone else upset by Read’s actions should have first gauged student concern to see if others were equally upset. Then, they could have contacted Truman administration to voice their concerns.

Corrections

• There was a mistake in the Iron and Wine article on the front page of last week’s Index. General admission tickets are free, not \$10.

To submit corrections or to contact the editor, please email index.editor@gmail.com, call us at 660-785-4449 or send a letter to Index, 1200 Barnett Hall, Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo., 63501.

Cartoon

By Jenn Marks



LARGE R TEXTBOOKS ? OR SMALLER STUDENTS ?

By Dan Warner

Web Poll

This week’s web poll question:

Should the beef product “pink slime” be sold in grocery stores?

Vote online at trumanindex.com

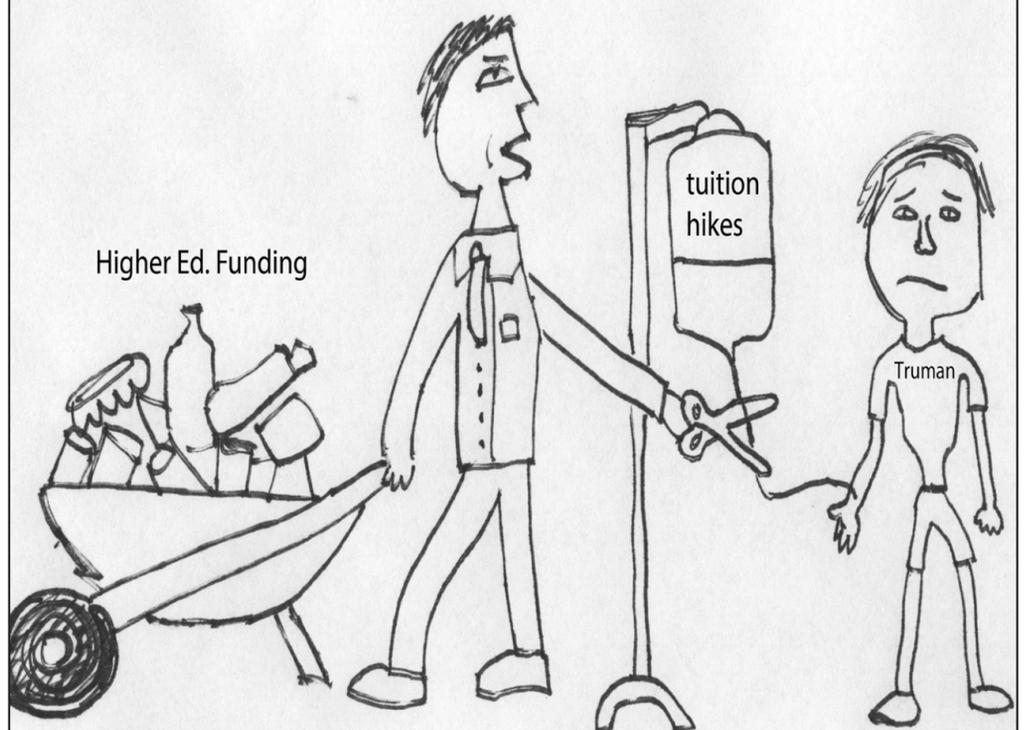
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“Oh, and you won’t be needing this either.”

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.

Letters Policy

The Index welcomes letters to the editor from the University community. Letters to the editor are due by noon the Monday before publication and become property of the Index. Submissions are subject to editing, must contain a well-developed theme and cannot exceed 500 words except at the discretion of the Editorial Board. Letters containing personal attacks will not be published. All letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, signed by at least one individual and include a phone number for verification. They must be submitted by email to index.opinionseditor@gmail.com or on our website at www.trumanindex.com. Include the words “letter to the editor” in the subject line of the e-mail. The Index does not publish anonymous letters to the editor. No individual may submit more than one letter a week.

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