

Our View

Politically active have more say in budget cuts

Budget cuts are inevitable. With the Budget Control Act mandating \$2.5 trillion in cuts nationwide, we can't expect everything to remain the same. However, voters have some influence regarding what needs to be cut.

This summer, Congress passed a budget compromise that ends loan interest subsidies for almost all graduate and professional students (see story, page 1). The government currently pays interest on subsidized loans when the borrower is in school, while the interest on unsubsidized loans is paid by the borrower. Starting in July 2012, subsidized loans no longer will exist for graduate students, making receiving a graduate or professional degree a more expensive feat.

If the younger voting demographic played a stronger role in the political realm, these types of cuts could be avoided. Politicians are likely to cut more from programs that affect the least vocal or smallest voting demographic. With less than 50 percent of the 18-24 age group participating in elections, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, student-related issues are an easy target. In comparison, 70 percent of the 65-plus age group are politically active. This can only mean policies regarding education and other issues affecting young people will be cut before programs like Social Security.

The job market is rough — college graduates are working at McDonald's. A graduate and professional-level degree has become vital to earn a high-paying job, so making it more expensive does not seem like the best idea in this education-driven society. While we acknowledge this, we also understand there might not be more practical areas from which to cut.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that cutting subsidized loans will save \$18 billion throughout 10 years. However, that still is only 1 percent of the \$2.5 trillion in cuts the Budget Control Act is mandating.

This can only mean more cuts are coming our way. If the younger population wants Congress to protect our interests, we need to let our voices be heard. Complaining about the injustices of the budget cuts will get us nowhere.

Register to vote. Keep yourself educated about these policies. Talk to your congressman. Do not let the issues you care about be ignored.

Corrections

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

cartoon



Letters to the Editor

Truman needs new laundry machines

I wanted to comment on the April 21 news article in the Index about how laundry will be included in room and board. First, let me say that I completely support the new fee to have free laundry. Since the front desk can only give change for three dollars, finding enough quarters for laundry was a task in itself, not to mention the countless amount of quarters that the laundry machines have taken away from me.

Now that the administration has fixed the issue of paying for laundry, they should now fix the laundry machines that actually do the job. Although the University has taken the right steps toward the laundry issues at Truman, there needs to be much more done for the issues to completely go away.

These issues need to be fixed by the school or else the new change in laundry payment will have no effect. I shouldn't have to dry my clothes two times just so they don't feel damp. I'm not asking for state-of-the-art laundry equipment, but rather laundry machines that actually do the job. Although the University has taken the right steps toward the laundry issues at Truman, there needs to be much more done for the issues to completely go away.

Kory Anderson
sophomore

Planned Parenthood not ethical practice

I would like to address the Opinions piece written by Anna Meier in the April 21 edition of the Index.

If 3 percent of McDonald's business was serving hamburgers with Salmonella bacteria, there would be a strong response. The public would rightfully refer to it as a harmful restaurant that serves Salmonella burgers. With that being said, the 3 percent of Planned Parenthood's services offered adds up. In fact, this 3 percent helps contribute to the 1.1 million abortions performed

in the U.S. each year. Another fact straight from Planned Parenthood's website is that they perform over 300,000 abortions per year. They assist over 3 million women per year. This means that 10 percent of the services they provide, not offer, are abortions. This should give the public the right to refer to Planned Parenthood as an abortion business, among other things.

This leads to my next point. The organization has been reported to have assisted in sex rings, providing both contraception and abortions for underage women who work as sex slaves, right here in the U.S. There are videos uncovered by Live Action, a youth-led pro-life movement for human rights, that reveal Planned Parenthood employees promising to sweep under the rug the illegality of the sex trafficking and to help fudge documents to avoid issues that could affect these "businesses." Check out the videos at liveaction.org.

Yes, Ms. Meier has a point that Bill O'Reilly's argument, "Nobody's life is affected by Planned Parenthood," is wrong. No, in fact, thousands of women report harmful medical advice and severe lack of post-abortion care. Planned Parenthood is worthless when it comes to providing safe and effective health care for women.

If my arguments have not convinced readers to discount Ms. Meier's points, perhaps basic math can help. The article includes a "clear pie chart" from PlannedParenthood.org, and she suggests people who are against Planned Parenthood are not "smart enough to read a pie chart." Well, according to addition, the pieces of the pie do not add up to 100 percent. Strange. Planned Parenthood says services they offer are 36 percent contraceptive, 31 percent STI screening, 17 percent cancer testing and 3 percent abortions. These equal 87 percent. Where and what are the other 13 percent of Planned Parenthood's services? They forgot to place their aiding sex trafficking into the pie chart. That must be the other 13 percent.

It is quite a shame that Kirksville lost an organization that promotes "fixing a problem of pregnancy" by killing innocent babies, provides unreliable health care, has been caught supporting illegal and harmful businesses that

devastate women and provides poorly constructed pie charts. However, the citizens of Kirksville and students in this college town will benefit from seeking health care elsewhere.

Leslie Bosslet
junior

University should be vegan friendly

A vegan is someone that does not eat animal products, and therefore does not eat meat, fish, dairy products or eggs. This past year, I decided to try veganism. It was one of the greatest challenges I faced all year. Even though one of the reasons I decided to try veganism was to challenge myself, I still think eating in the dining halls made the transition more of a challenge than it should have been.

Even though the dining halls offer alternative meal choices for vegans, the choices lack variety and are not always available. While the cafeteria does offer a vegan friendly salad bar, fruit and vegetables every day, it does not offer an actual vegan entrée every day.

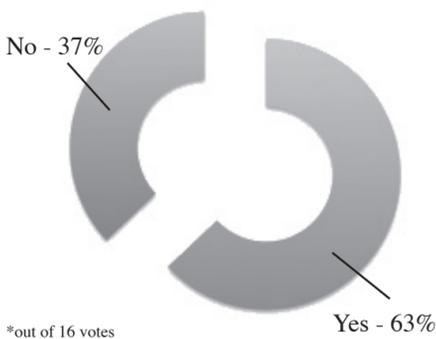
On the off chance there is a vegan entrée, it is usually in the form of a veggie burger or stir-fry. What I would like the school to do is utilize more of the thousands of vegan friendly recipes out there and try to incorporate these options on the menu regularly. There are recipes for vegan pizza, pasta, sandwiches, soup and even desserts. There are also recipes for regional vegan dinners such as Italian, Greek and Mexican.

If Truman could find a way to make a more vegan friendly menu for the upcoming year, students would have an easier time eating in the dining halls. Not only would this accommodate more students here at Truman, it would also support Truman's pledge to go green since veganism is an eco-friendly way of eating.

Paige Copeland
sophomore

Web Poll

Would you utilize a sober ride program?



This week's web poll question:

Should subsidized loans be cut for graduate students?

Vote online at trumanindex.com

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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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