

EDITORIAL

Our View

AIDS awareness, safe sex practices remain important

It's easy to think you're invincible, that nothing can harm you. This "not me" mentality can have tragic consequences, though.

Today is World AIDS Day, and while in the U.S. we are lucky to have access to medical resources to better combat the causes of AIDS, we are not in the clear.

It is estimated that more than one million people are

"Ignorance and prejudice are fueling the spread of a preventable disease. ... It's up to you, me and us to stop the spread of HIV and end prejudice," according to a 2006 article on worldaids-day.org.

The same applies to all STIs.

While most Missouri high schools teach some form of sexual education, the need

for sexual awareness does not end at graduation. After high school, we experience limitless possibilities, but safe sex practices should not be forgotten once the freedom of

college or the real world sets in. In fact, this is where they are needed the most.

We commend Truman State for not ignoring the devastation of this tragic epidemic or minimizing the importance of practicing safe sex (see story, page 3). The Women's Resource Center, nursing students and fraternities and sororities on campus are hosting various events today, including candlelight vigils for AIDS victims and condom distributions to promote safe sex practices.

We encourage all students to increase their knowledge about safe sex practices by visiting the information tables today in the Student Union Building and wearing a red ribbon to raise awareness of the AIDS epidemic.

33 million people in the world have HIV/AIDS.

More than **one million** people have HIV in the U.S. and **490,000** people have AIDS.

*according to avert.org

living with HIV in the U.S., and by the end of 2008 there were more than 490,000 people with an AIDS diagnosis, according to avert.org. In Missouri, more than 11,000 have HIV and 6,000 have AIDS. Combined,

the number of people with HIV and AIDS in Missouri is roughly the population of Kirksville. These numbers represent victims of this awful epidemic. They represent people just like us. Compared to the 33 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the world, these numbers might seem miniscule, but sexually transmitted diseases in the U.S. are continually rising.

As of 2010, more than 1.3 million people had chlamydial infections in the U.S., a number more than 5 percent higher than the previous year, according to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Similarly, the rates of gonorrhea and syphilis have increased since 2009.

Corrections

- Sophomore April Lohrmann's name was misspelled in the pull quote on the front page of features in the Nov. 17 edition of the Index.
- The story on the front page of the Nov. 17 sports section stated Abby Moser's mother coached volleyball at Lafayette High School. She really coached Abby her freshman year at Visitation Academy.

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

By Sara Hahn



Letters to the Editor

Bottled water harms environment, is lazy

Two weeks ago the Index's Our View was about the impracticality of a proposed water bottle ban. Unfortunately, I think the staff confused the words impractical and inconvenient.

ECO (the Environmental Campus Organization) is working with Sodexo to eliminate water bottle sales from their facilities, i.e. Mainstreet Market and the C-Stores. In addition, Take Back the Tap, a student initiative, is further supporting the use of reusable water bottles over the commercial and easily disposable ones. Not only do these programs seek to reduce the amount of waste this campus produces, but they're also helping to maintain our "green" reputation on a national level.

In September 2010, University President Troy Paino created the Sustainability Action Committee, comprised of faculty, staff and several students. Some readers may also remember signing the "Go Green" pledge that circulated last spring. The failure of these commitments, or even the inability to take them seriously makes the University appear lazy and hypocritical.

This really isn't a hard decision to make. Most plastics take 450 years or so to decompose, and even then, the released toxic chemicals will continue to poison the surrounding environment. Having a reusable water bottle does not require what the editorial board called life style changes.

Borrow one from a friend. Or better yet, ask for a BPA-free bottle for Christmas.

This will probably cause some initial confusion, but is it worth eliminating the entire program? Hardly. I'm sure Truman students can withstand the so-called "life style changes" the Index thinks we need to make before water bottles become unavailable on campus.

Courtney Scanlan
senior

Kirksville sidewalks need improvements

The news relayed by P. Zahnd in your pre-Thanksgiving Break edition that good friends like history professor Tom Zoumaras has succumbed to a two-fractures bike collapsed accident and another English professor, Royce Kallerud has to go round for his exercise constitutional, dressed daily protectively up like proverbial Fort Knox, because unsafe and unfilled potholes, surely, at last argues for drastic media attention.

About this time of your December issue two months ago, I too, sustained a similar "fall" right on the intersection of a city sidewalk with three glaring potholes jagged spots with the Department of Fine Arts long similar jagged TSU approach!

On advice of senior Departments of Communication and Languages fac-

ulty members, who saw the state of my bloodied eye frame and still painfully dislocated small finger, Truman Public Safety reported and photographed the injury next day after Emergency Hospital New Zealander staff if costly time treatment. But from experience of a far worst fall in 2007, outside and on unrepared TSU Student Union Building steps before the fountain, we know evasion and denial of any either city or TSU maintenance responsibility will be uselessly upheld. As its state GOP law legally impossible to prove over 50 percent non-care vigilance oneself, be it footwear, bike or attention to what's beneath one's gaze.

Surely, it maybe to say, but is it not time both Kirksville and TSU started organizing some extra tax and fee levy to get those potholes and jagged slab sidewalks alike in a state fit to walk, ride and yes run, jog upon. As, yes, occurs in most areas of public campus cities like UMC, Columbia and Iowa City, I am historian researcher familiar visitor with, in basic public safety confidence reassurance? Failing this, what about frat and sorority and church groups organizing charity fund repair drives?

I, for one, and my public official Professor Betty Louise wife are tired of media neglect of this issue. Even though every Kirksville small food business and cinema space in town has public provision for their properly enforced. We are very soon going to get fall fatalities else.

Larry Iles
Kirksville resident

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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, 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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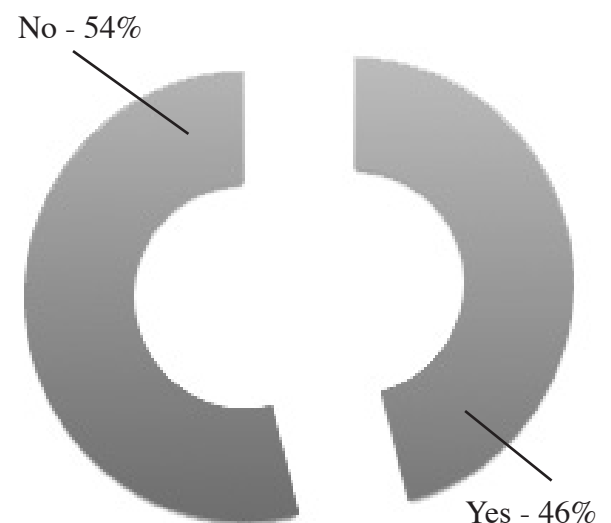
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Web Poll

Should Truman eliminate the sale of bottled water?



*out of 65 votes

This week's web poll question:

Should Missouri have stricter gun laws?

Vote online at trumanindex.com