

Our View

Whining limits possibilities for growth in college

'Tis the season of snow, holiday cheer, togetherness and hot cocoa. Oh yeah, and a whole bunch of stress.

Final exams are next week and schedules are hectic, we get it, but please, stop all the whining.

College is a privilege. At no other time in our lives will we be able to take classes from professional scholars for the sole purpose of expanding our minds to earn a degree to one day get a higher paying job. Yes, we still have responsibilities, but they are minute compared to those of someone actually in the marketplace. In college, we get to spend time with friends, and partying is an acceptable, if not encouraged, practice. There are few serious obligations blocking our freedom. If anything, this is the time we are most free, not after graduation when real jobs demand our time and loan payments start to funnel in.

If Truman State is the root cause of your whiny Facebook statuses and tweets, then leave. Truman is ranked as the No. 1 public university in the Midwest, according to a U.S. News and World Report. Obviously this school is doing something right, and if you are lucky enough to be here, you should relish in it, not count down the time until you leave.

We're all worried about next week — a semester's worth of knowledge needs to be combined into a final paper, presentation, project or exam and your grades are depending on the success of four short days. It isn't necessarily fun, but is it really that bad? There are no classes next week and there's also Reading Day, arguably one of the greatest days of the semester — no classes or finals, just recouping after the likely parties of Reading Day Eve and preparing for the rest of the week. Also, after next week, we have three weeks off. It seems like a fair trade.

So put your head down and push through next week. Whining about it isn't going to make it any easier. Just keep thinking about Winter Break, that holiday cheer, good food and togetherness.

Corrections

- The pull quote on page 17 of last week's Index was attributed to mens swimming head coach Pete Kendall. It was actually said by senior mens swimmer Jerod Simek.
- The "Teen faces felony" story on the front page of last week's Index had Tyler Treece's brother's name wrong. His name is Travis, not Trevor.

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.

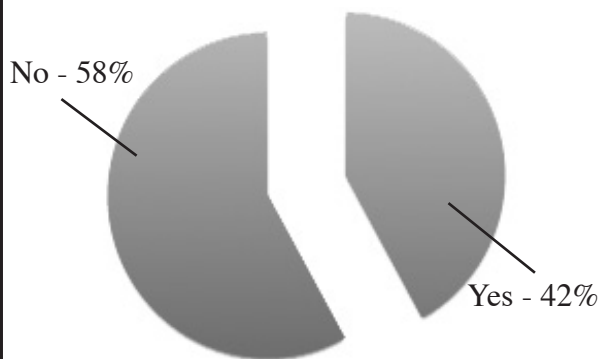
Cartoon

By Sara Hahn



Web Poll

Should Missouri have stricter gun laws?



*out of 57 votes

This week's web poll question:

Should Truman reduce major requirements?

Vote online at trumanindex.com

Letters to the Editor

Baseball team apologizes for hazing

On behalf of the Truman State University varsity baseball team, we would like to formally apologize to the Truman and Kirksville communities for the events that took place the night of Aug. 23, 2011. We understand the events that occurred were in violation of the athletic and student conduct codes.

It is very important to us to regain the trust and faith of Truman faculty, staff and students as well as the Kirksville community. Steps have been taken and will continue to be taken in the effect of community service and hazing prevention in order to reconcile our actions.

Our goal is to establish anti-hazing programs and traditions that the baseball team, as well as other organizations within the Truman community, can employ in the future. These programs and traditions will be in effort to reduce the amount of hazing activities. The programs should help students to be more aware of what constitutes hazing in order to avoid and notice potential activities that would be regarded as such.

We hope that in time we will regain and retain trust in the eyes of the Kirksville and Truman State University. Through our continuing efforts to right the mistakes made, we hope to restore Truman baseball's reputation to what it has been in past years.

Dan Plecki
on behalf of Truman Baseball

Homeschooling deserves positive outlook

In Jenn Mark's article "Visit Tours Gone Wrong," there was a quote from student ambassador Trammel about how a prospective student "is homeschooled, so

basically she's not coming to Truman." I understand homeschooling has a reputation in some areas for churning out freaky, ultra-conservative or socially-awkward people. I've heard these comments multiple times from my Truman students and community members alike. However, I would like to point out that the majority of homeschooled children are just as normal and educated as any other child in public or private schools. Homeschooling isn't right or wrong, it's just different.

Conservatism isn't necessarily the key point in choosing to pull students out of public education. Many curriculums present multiple theories and practices within subjects (and not all of them are "religious"). The factors being controlled are sometimes more environmental than curricular. K-12 schools are plagued with a lot of problems, no one can deny that. Throughout the years, I've seen drunk pre-teens, middle-school students popping pills, overcrowded classrooms, students who fall through the cracks, dwindling resources and so on. Parents can't, and shouldn't, shelter their children from everything. However, if some negative situations common in public schools can be avoided via alternate education, it's not so much conservatism but rather protective instincts at work.

Additionally, homeschooling won't create a socially-inept generation (at least, not any more than your typical online generation). Homeschooled children have friends, compete in community-based sports and many volunteer or work on community projects. Homeschooling families bring their children together for group classes, such as drama, music, P.E., art and others that not all public schools are able to offer anymore. They might not have all the experiences and opportunities of traditional students, but the discrepancy is not big enough to make them unable to function in society at large.

As far as these students coming to Truman, why shouldn't they attend? Yes, it is a liberal arts University, and that type of education is not for everyone, but that doesn't mean that all the professors are

Democrats and that there is no room for differences in opinion or debate. Truman is about critical thinking, not indoctrination in any political view.

Yes, there are poor homeschooling situations, just like there are poor public and private school situations. No style of education is perfect. Nevertheless, what I dare this community is to stop looking at homeschooling as though it was a scarlet H, representative of some great sin a parent has committed against a child. It's not the ultimate solution to problems in education, but when done well, it can make a world of difference for many children.

Tamara Frost
communication professor

Roads belong to all types of vehicles

I had an encounter recently which made me aware that at least some Truman students are unaware cyclists are supposed to use the road and not the sidewalks. In downtown Kirksville, where this encounter occurred, there are even signs explicitly prohibiting people from cycling on the sidewalks.

I therefore write this letter to let people know that the roads are constructed for users of all vehicles, including bicycles (which are human-powered vehicles rather than motor vehicles). Also, drivers of cars are not entitled to harass other users of the road, because it is not cars which have rights. Human beings have rights, and the rights of a human being surrounded by a shell of a ton or two of metal are not in any way superior to those of a human being not surrounded by such a shell.

While all of this is common sense and most people in this town drive responsibly, it seems it is sometimes necessary to reiterate these points.

Wolfgang Hoeschele
geography professor

INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909

Staff

Editor-in-Chief Andrea Hewitt
Managing Editor Blaise Hart-Schmidt
News Editor Jackie Kinealy
Assistant News Editor Ashley Jost, Philip Zahnd
Features Editor Kathleen Barbosa
Assistant Features Editor John O'Brien
Sports Editor Sam Sherman
Assistant Sports Editor Kirk Schlueter
Opinions Editor Molly Skyles
Copy Chief Brittany Keeling
Multimedia Editor Dan Warner
Assistant Editor Ken Dusold
Assistant Design Chief Erik La Londe
Photography Editor Jessie Poole
Advertising Manager Sam Leister
Business Manager Ashley Thomas
News Staff Andi Watkins Davis, Grace Freeman, Markia A. Holt, Huang Tran
Features Staff Emily Battmer, Alex Carlson, Bethany Coury, Scott Henson, Jenn Marks
Sports Staff Brooke Daly, Meredith Kusky, Brett McMillon, Tyler Poe, Tyler Sigris
Multimedia Reporter Sarah Pauley
Cartoonist Allison Bannister, Sara Hahn
Copy Editors Hanna Bilinski, Carly Bolliger, Katey Carlton, Emily Haynes, Scott Henson, Elizabeth Koch, Jessica Phillips, Laurie Mattson, Megan Mehmert, Chelsea Rickman, Britney Stubbs, Andrea Trierweiler, Ashley Wolf
Photographers Lindsey Borgna, Sonny Phan
Designer Colleen Glaeser, Kate Linman
Advertising Jack Nicholl, Megan Onder, Shelby Hewerdine
Distribution Molly Bybee, Bradley LaPlante
Adviser Don Krause

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. The Index does not publish anonymous letters to the editor. Letters to the editor also may be submitted by e-mail at index@truman.edu or on our website at www.trumanindex.com. Include the words "letter to the editor" in the subject line of the e-mail. No individual may submit more than one letter a week.

Advertising Policy

For up-to-date information on current rates or to inquire about the availability of classified ads in the Index, contact our advertising department at 785-4319. Our fax number is 785-7601, or you can e-mail us at tsu.indexads@gmail.com.