

Our View

Residence Life posters distort off-campus living

College is confusing. Decisions involving what major to choose and what classes to take will impact your future. Other decisions, though, don't need to be as complicated.

Take, for instance, the decision to live on or off campus next school year. Residence Life has displayed posters in the residence halls providing reasons to stay on campus. While these posters are a means of advertising, they are misleading and make a simple decision much more complicated.

One poster lists the hassle of paying bills off campus as a reason to stay in the residence halls. Yes, there will be an adjustment period to living on your own, coordinating with roommates and remembering to pay bills on time, but we are adults and these are essential skills that need to be learned before entering the real world. Why not start now?

This poster also implies residence halls are more cost efficient because you pay one all-inclusive price once a year. We understand this doesn't apply to every student, but for all editorial board members, living off campus has saved money. Rather than paying the \$6,740 a year to live in Centennial Hall, the cheapest option, we pay an average estimate of \$5,500 a year, which includes rent, all utilities and food for a house or apartment full of the freedom a residence hall cannot promise and a room of your own.

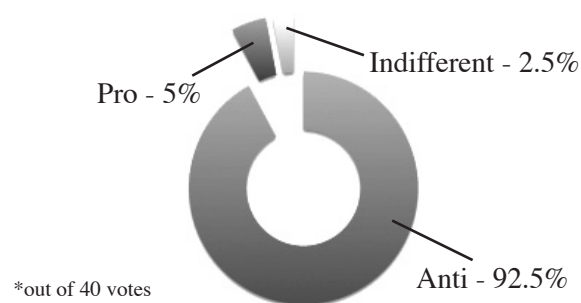
Residence Life also has a poster that claims living off campus limits your ability to meet new friends. Making friends is not contingent upon where you live but on what you do with your time. If you live in the residence halls and spend all your time in your room with the door locked, chances are you won't make many friends. The same applies to living off campus, but if you leave your room or house and become involved, friends will follow.

Food is another concern for living off campus. Moving out of the residence halls will require you to microwave every meal, according to the Residence Life posters. Now, we aren't expert chefs, but we get by free of food poisoning or malnutrition. Learn to boil water, fry meat or saute vegetables. If all else fails, microwave meals really aren't too shabby. Like paying bills, learning to cook can only benefit you in the real world, so you might as well start now.

We recognize living off campus isn't for everyone. Based on scholarships, some students are required to remain in the residence halls. So for those students, this Our View does not apply to you. To everyone else though, we urge you to consider living off campus, because despite what the posters might make you think, it can be pretty great.

Web Poll

What do you think about SOPA and PIPA?



This week's web poll question:

Should Missouri legalize marijuana?

Vote online at trumanindex.com

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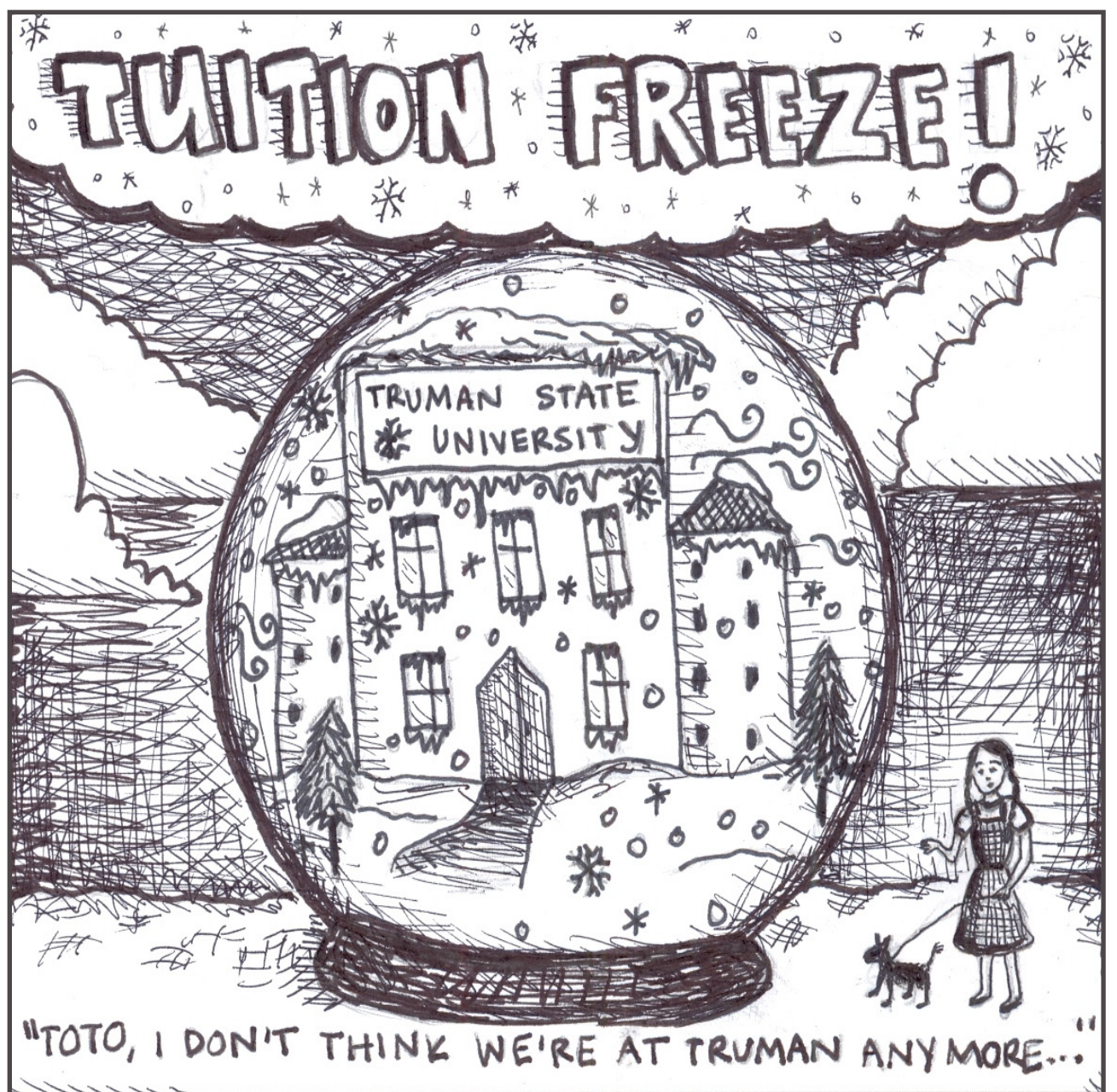
Corrections

- The photo cutline accompanying the "Alumnus helps raise local voices" article on page 14 of last week's Index misspelled the alumnus' name. The correct spelling is Dominic Armstrong.
- The photo cutline on page 7 of last week's Index said the College Democrats were petitioning to support a resolution to legalize cannabis on the ballot for Missouri in November. The Democrats do not officially enforce the resolution. The sign in the photo was not affiliated with the organization but it was at their table at the activities fair.

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

Anyone can live a sustainable lifestyle

I would like to start this off by stating that I love the Soybomb. I have spent many a Friday evening eating some of the finest vegetarian food that Kirksville has to offer at the veggie potlucks, and I consider the residents of that home dear friends. Despite all of this, the article appearing in the Jan. 18 issue about the Soybomb had me scratching my head and wondering if the writer had perhaps missed the point.

I live in a house with five other sorority sisters. We use hairspray, shower daily, go shopping on Black Friday and eat meat. This is not a hippie household. Period. Despite the non-flower-child atmosphere of my home, the environmentally conscience practices outlined in the article "Home Sweet Soybomb" have become commonplace for my roommates and I.

When it comes to homeownership, we have learned winterizing the windows doesn't just keep cold out and warm in, but it also keeps our energy bill low. Turning lights off and conserving water in the bathroom is another aspect of frugality we have adopted. These tricks work wonders not just for the environment, but for our wallets as well. When it comes to food waste we have been a proud stop along the Rot Riders composting route since August with zero intent of going back to our non-composting ways. And why would we when composting in Kirksville is as simple as setting a bucket on your back porch? It's not us being a fringe eco-friendly home, it's us realizing that

when it's this easy why do it differently.

As college students there are a few things that really matter: money, ease of living and comfort. And so, let it be stated that even in a "sorority house" you can lead a sustainable lifestyle. We must get away from the notion that to compost is to be a hippie and to "let it mellow" is gross. The days of environmentalism being a fringe beatnik movement need to come to an end because until the stigma of being "green" can be washed away there will be factions of resistance from people who do not understand that composting is just throwing your food away without the guilt.

The broader picture here is that living a low-impact lifestyle is a human issue and since those of us reading this article are human it should relate to us. Take the example described by the Soybomb article and realize that composting isn't just for hippies anymore.

Sara Hahn
senior

Kindness creates a culture of peace

A universal image of diversity: human beings connecting hands around the entire world, without a single kink in the chain. This is a picture we have been familiar with since preschool. As people grow, we begin to realize this ideal world peace will never be attained if we cannot have peace in our own neighborhoods.

Starting at a young age, we make

judgments and assumptions, this is only human nature. Unfortunately, we can also be vocal about these developed opinions and less cautious of the feelings and views of others. We may not agree with the way a church is preaching, the way a school is run, or how you're governed — that is our right — but hostility and anger have yet to show a positive change and can often lead to unwanted violence and unhealthy tension.

Kindness, patience, communication and flexibility are all pivotal towards the dream of world peace becoming reality. The world that can seem so terrifying will not look any more inviting to us or our children until each and every one of us are able to adopt empathy, to take the hand of our neighbors and enemies and make changes in our lives. This is a colossal picture being painted, but a great oak doesn't arise without first a small seed being planted. Baby steps that may seem insignificant will in fact make a huge impact on the lives that you touch and will be felt immediately all around you.

This is a movement that would transform any city, any state, the country and someday the entire universe. Don't be afraid to take a stand as a leader. Take a deep breath and lend out a hand to someone who may not deserve or expect it from you. You will be surprised to see its chain of events and the positive energy it will create. If everyone of us focused on doing this just once a day, imagine the friendly atmosphere you would see everywhere you looked!

Rachel Foster
freshman

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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