

## Our View

# I-70 toll road would lessen tax burden

In ever-changing economic times, the state must make financially sound and efficient decisions to maintain a suitable environment for its citizens. One decision we think Missouri should implement is making I-70 a toll road (see story, page 3).

The Missouri House of Representative recently passed a bill requiring the issue of I-70 tolls to be put on a public ballot for approval. We support the creation of tolls on the highway as a way to raise funds for repair.

I-70 through Missouri was completed during the late 1950s with a lifespan of 20-25 years, according to the Missouri Department of Transportation website. Fifty years later, the highway is desperately in need of repair, but such major road construction comes at a price — a price the state currently cannot afford.

Tolls would provide the state with extra funds to improve the road. It would cost a traveler \$25 to cross the state of Missouri and a truck driver about \$75. With more than 30,000 vehicles traveling across the stretch of highway each day, the \$2 billion to \$4 billion needed in construction funds could come quickly.

Paying more than just the rising gas costs to travel across the state might sound like more of a pain than a benefit. However, the road must be improved or it eventually could become merely a gravel parking lot. The funds need to come from somewhere. The only other option would be to increase fuel or sales taxes. Residents of southern or northern Missouri likely don't travel across I-70 regularly, though, and they should not be required to pay toward its improvement.

This is a no brainer — the state needs money for road construction, and tolls would provide these extra funds. If the I-70 tolls become a ballot measure, we urge Missouri voters to benefit our state by voting in favor of tolls and not require a tax increase.

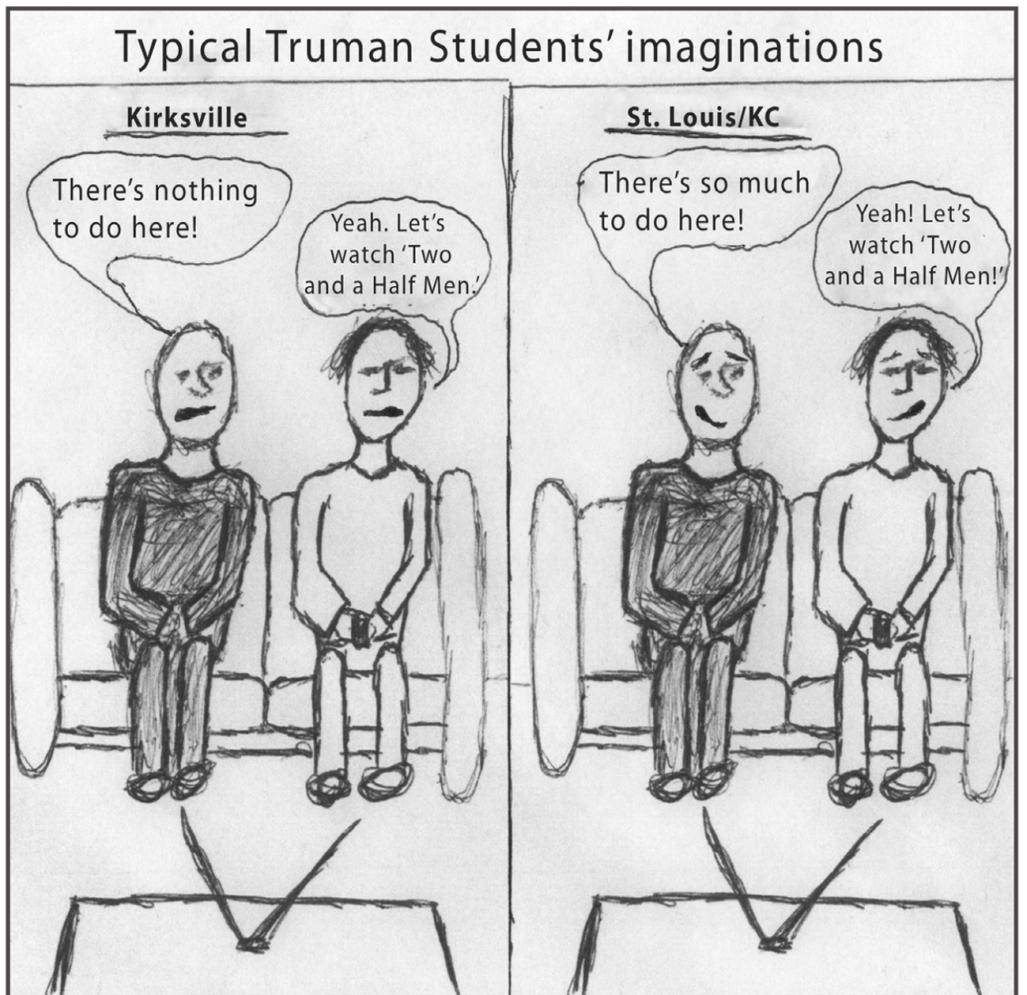
## Corrections

- The unrelated photo on page 7 of last weeks Index called the organization that hosted the flash mob International Performance and Arts Coalition. Its correct name is Independent Performance and Arts Coalition.
- On page 10 of last weeks' Index, the "Play begins season well" review said junior Paige Hackworth did lighting design. It was really junior Sarah Dykes.

To submit corrections or to contact the editor, please email [index.editor@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Cartoons

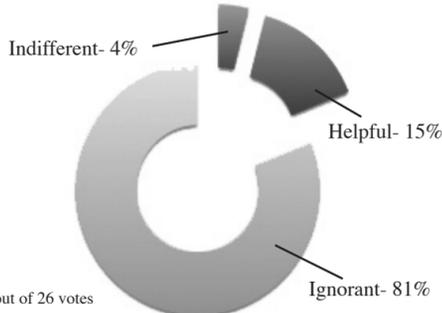
By Dan Warner



By Andrea Hewitt

## Web Poll

Is the One Million Moms organization helpful or ignorant?



This week's web poll question:

Should religiously affiliated companies be required to provide workers with birth control coverage?

Vote online at [trumanindex.com](http://trumanindex.com)

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**OH, YOU THINK ANONYMOUSLY USING BOLD, CAPITALIZED, WHITE IMPACT TEXT WITH A BLACK OUTLINE OVER A STOCK PHOTO IS CLEVER?**

**NEWS FLASH: IT'S NOT.**

### 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.opinionseditor@gmail.com](mailto:index.opinionseditor@gmail.com) or on our website at [www.trumanindex.com](http://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.

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