

Our View

Index urges instinctual kindness

Alumnus John Hussung was driving home from his first night working at the DuKum Inn at 2 a.m. last Thursday when a man flagged him down at the corner of Baltimore and McPherson streets (see story, page 1).

Not knowing what to expect on the dark snowy evening, Hussung pulled over to discover a car in a ditch and five badly injured men covered in blood. Hussung called the police and stayed with the injured men until help arrived. Two of the men were badly injured and taken to a Columbia hospital. The other three were taken to Northeast Regional Medical Center in Kirksville with less severe injuries.

There's no recipe for bravery, no automatic courage switch that clicks on during dangerous times. Hussung relied on instinct, and we commend him for that.

Hussung didn't have to stop that night. He likely was exhausted from work and easily could have driven past, assuming the next person would stop. His action required gumption and extemporaneous kindness, something we encourage everyone to strive toward obtaining.

Witnessing the aftermath or being the victim of such a brutal car accident is traumatic for all parties, and we hope no one has to deal with that type of grief. However, if ever in that situation, we hope everyone responds like Hussung — no deliberation, just helping a fellow human being in his or her time of need.

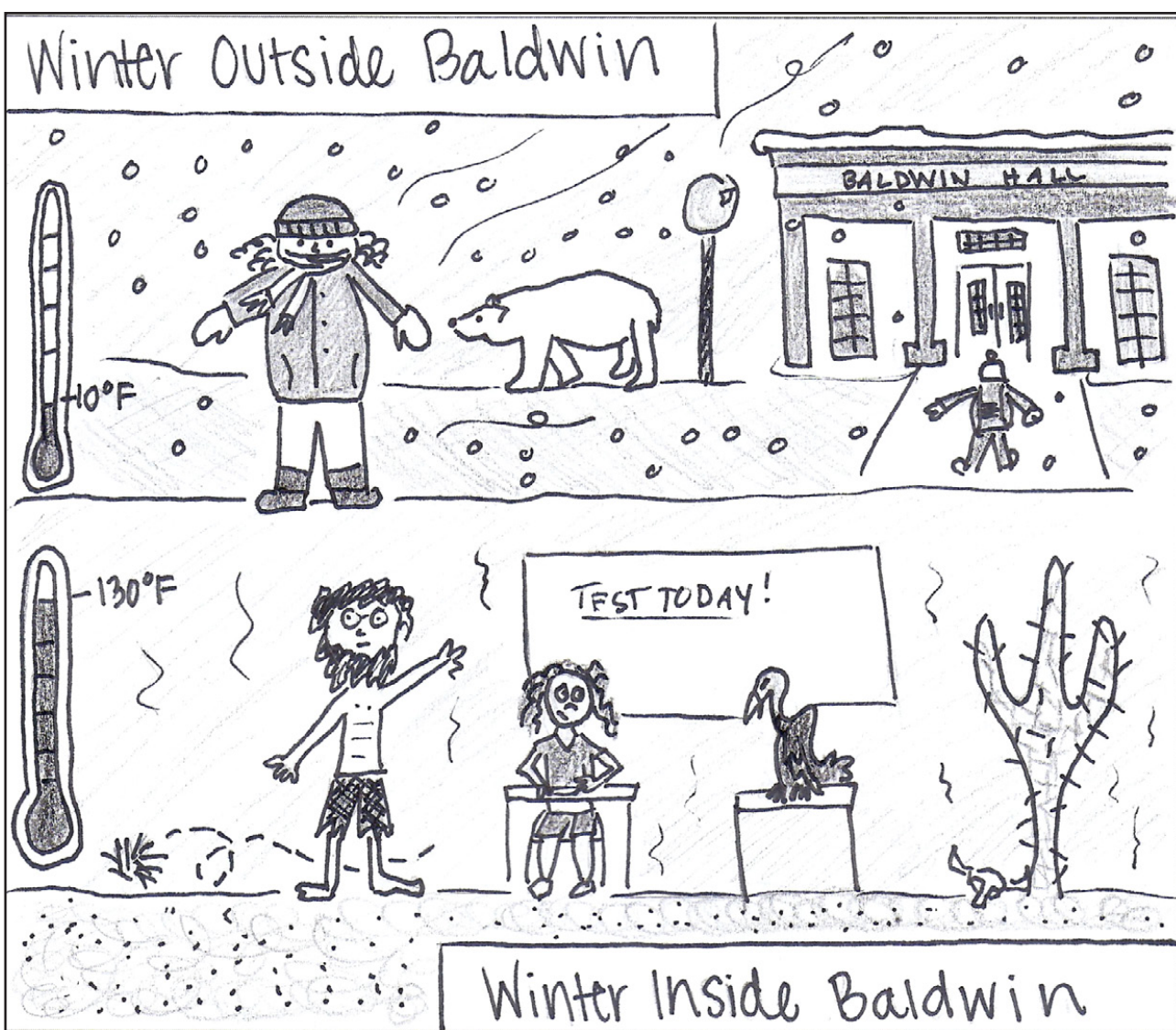
Corrections

In the article "A.T. Still trains for disasters" on page 8 of last week's Index, James Brown is listed as the public information officer for A.T.S.U., but he is the public information officer for DART, the organization hosting the simulation.

To submit corrections or to contact the editor, please email 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.

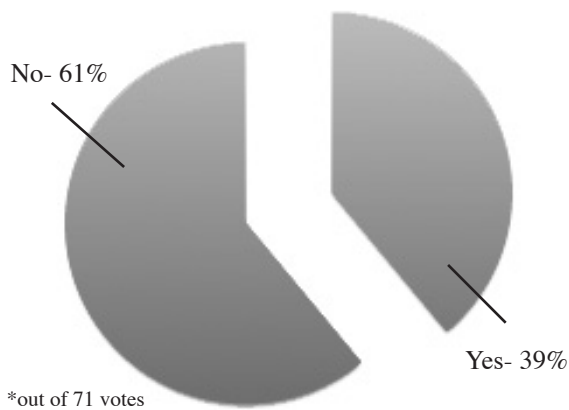
Cartoon

By Jenn Marks



Web Poll

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



This week's web poll question:

Should the Department of Education funding be cut if Ron Paul is elected?

Vote online at trumanindex.com

Letters to the Editor

Misleading cartoon defames group

I am writing in response to the appalling illustration recently written in the Truman Index. While I don't necessarily support the One Million Moms organization, I am disgusted when I see unfounded propaganda in this paper.

The cartoon shows that One Million Moms is against Ellen DeGeneres, but it also implies that the parents of the organization keep a "stash" of alcohol and that their kids have access to it.

While it is accurate to say the organization is against the celebrity, there are no reports that the children of the organization drink alcohol, or that the members of the One Million Moms organization hoard alcohol. Creating/distributing false accusations to defame a group or organization because their stance differs from your own, is nothing more than senseless name calling.

Jacob Hootman
sophomore

Military deaths need more honor, respect

I believe you are misinterpreting the Facebook posts that are being made about the "comparison" of Whitney Houston and service members. There is no comparison of the two, I agree. The Facebook posts that are being made, some of which I have posted myself, are not comparing Whitney Houston and other drug addict celebrities with service members. What these Facebook posts are about is the media coverage about the death of a celebrity, a drug addicted celebrity to add to that.

What happened to Whitney Houston is sad, but let's look at some statistics.

There are roughly 37,485 drug related deaths per year. The fact that one of these drug addicts who died happened to be a celebrity, it gets publicized across the world as if it is a life changing event.

While in the first nine years of The War on Terror, roughly 5,000 men and women made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, and there was virtually zero media coverage of these deaths. I'm not saying that all soldier's deaths should be publicized, because they shouldn't be. It is a personal event for the friends and family of that soldier, which is the way it should be for celebrities too. The only thing that separates celebrities from your average Joe is the emphasis that society puts on the celebrity's life.

Personally, I think the fact that our society has become so superficial is sad. People are more worried about who the next celebrity couple is to be married or divorced. To add to that, the New Jersey governor made an "executive order" for the state of New Jersey to fly the American flag at half-mast in honor of Whitney Houston (<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/nation-now/la-na-nm-whitney-houston-flag-protest-20120220.0.2349928.story>). This is outrageous. Flying the flag at half-mast should be reserved for those who dedicated their lives to serving their community, state, and nations, something Whitney Houston, regardless of artistic talent, did not do.

You may call us military fanatics, but I call us patriots.

Mike Reams
senior

Local Council must support businesses

May I give a strictly personal take on the economic debate that is raging globally, nationally and locally regarding what

to do about the still lamentably poor and sluggish economy in chronic crisis of capitalism no politicians on this earth seem to have adequately resolved? Nearly a decade now ago you see I had the sad business of telling off at a plenary session of the UK magazine "Red Pepper" a rich-suited younger German colleague who seemed to think, bizarrely, even back recessionary then, that big business in the forms of Wal-Marts and Tescoes was the sole answer for recovery. With my lady and fellow speakers, the Cambridge Keynesian economist, Dr. Joan Smith and the Guardian journalist, George Monbiot, nodding and hear-hearing me in so much agreement I thought that their heads would fall off, and I rebutted that the Independent-Democrat run US Vermont state had to ban Wal-Mart as a net proven destroyer of most small business jobs and skills.

Alas, none of us were listened to by private corporate growth-fixated then Premier Blair and it took his historian trained successor Gordon Brown, as Prime Minister, to even in UK restart a sustained small business recovery strategy. Now, itself, wrecked by a big business obsessed Cameron-Clegg Coalition UK government foisted on us by BBC TV boys, in highest female and youth unemployment for 25 years in Tea Party-style 2011-2012 records kept disaster consequentially.

Criticisms thus that appeared on page 2 of your Feb. 23 paper that is allegedly has been too "picky" and not supported big business enough could not be more wrong headed. Visibly, to all Index readers' eyes it's been small local stores and cafes that have not been helped enough in now closed, derelict state of neglect. Genuine small regional concerns like HyVee with its employee, co-partnership admirable, and student ex-run Aquadome, by contrast have and are succeeding in local growth even though both could do with local council publicity as alone to restart up again.

Larry Iles
Kirksville resident

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Serving the University community since 1909

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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 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.

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