

Our View

Cutting blind benefits saves state money

Higher Education in Missouri is facing a looming \$66 million cut in the state budget. The government needs to make difficult decisions at the state and local level to make ends meet. Programs will have to be cut and sacrifices will have to be made.

Therefore, we support Missouri House Budget Committee Chairman Ryan Silvey's plan to eliminate the Supplemental Aid to the Blind program, which would save \$28 million in state funding to reallocate to public colleges and universities (see story, page 3).

At first glance, taking money from the blind seems cruel. However, we must not jump to conclusions before learning the facts. This program funds medical care for approximately 3,000 people who make too much to receive Medicaid health care but already receive state blind pension payments.

Therefore, Silvey's plan would not be leaving the blind empty handed — they still would be receiving monthly Blind Pension program payments of \$707, according to the Missouri Department of Social Services website, and it would only affect those who legally make enough to pay for their health care.

To qualify for Medicaid, annual income cannot exceed 85 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. For a family of four, 85 percent of the FPL is \$18,998, according to covermissouri.org. As of 2011, Medicaid covers more than 900,000 Missouri residents, 27 percent of which are aged, blind or disabled, meaning 82 percent of aged, blind or disabled people are able to pay for their health care based on Missouri eligibility rules. Supplying state-funded health care to the blind people in the 82 percent of that demographic who can afford it is a waste of money.

Through both the Blind Pension program and the Supplemental Aid to the Blind program, the blind receive state-funded health care, something deaf and paralyzed people do not qualify for. We think that if deaf and paralyzed people are not eligible, blind people shouldn't be either.

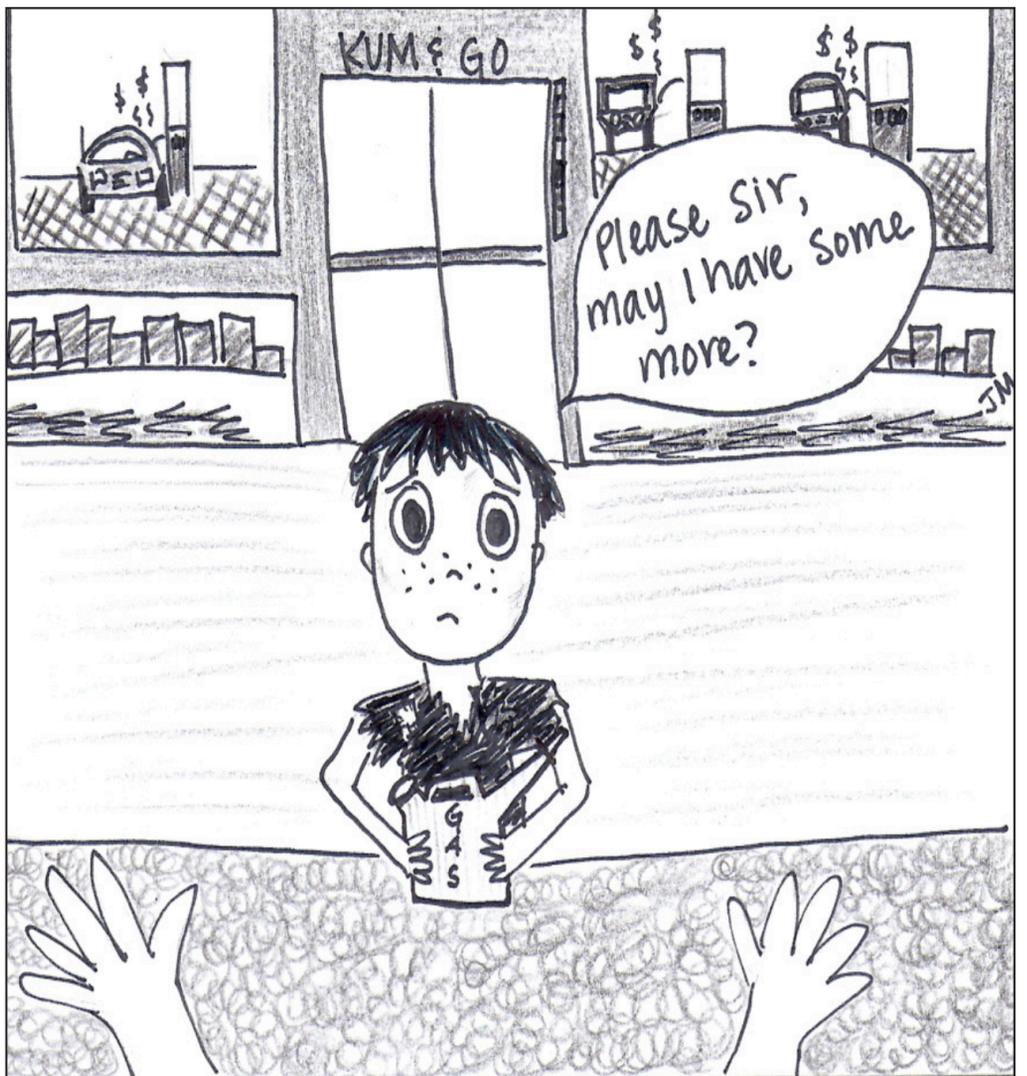
A mark of a civilized society is to help people with disabilities function as normal as possible. However, we think Silvey's plan would not be putting the blind at a financial disadvantage because of the existing pension program. Higher Education, though, would be at a disadvantage without such funds.

Corrections

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.

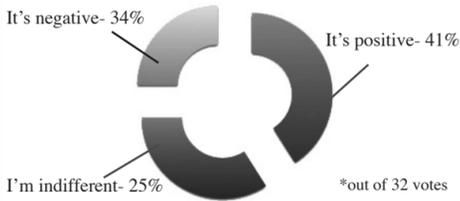
Cartoon

By Jenn Marks



Web Poll

Because of the "Kony 2012" video, what do you think about the Invisible Children organization?



This week's web poll question:

Should Truman make classes worth four credit hours?

Vote online at trumanindex.com

Letters to the Editor

Student endorses Malin for president

Fellow members of the Student Association,

When deciding upon one's representative leaders, one must choose wisely. April 2-4, we as a student body will have the difficult task of choosing our leadership for the 2012-2013 academic year. It is with this letter that I personally give my full endorsement for Aaron Malin for the office of president of the Student Association.

Throughout this past year, Aaron has proven himself a loyal member and a staunch advocate for his fellow students. He has served the residence Hall Association both as the parliamentary and as the residential affairs chair, he has facilitated legislation through our body that has been from the student perspective and has represented their needs well, he has insured that correct policy has been executed in all of our proceedings, and he has been instrumental in our collaborations with the student government. His dedication to the on-campus residents of the residence halls and apartments and to our organization has been unflinching and the results of his efforts speak for themselves.

Aaron has always shown his loyalty to his pursuits. He is unrelenting when presented with a task, he sees his tasks through to fruition, and he never promises anything he cannot deliver. In my experience in observing his work and his process, he has always acted with a sense of equity and equality. I hope you will all look at the candidates and their platforms, who and whatever they might be, but

I hope you will give special consideration to this exceptional candidate.

*Sean Serroque
senior and Residence Hall
Association President*

Missouri caucus embarrasses GOP

I am writing about the embarrassment that some have called the Missouri Republican Caucus of 2012. Missouri held both a Republican primary and caucus this year. Because the primary election violated rules established by the national GOP, Missouri was threatened with the loss of half its delegates. However, the primary could not be canceled due to state statutes.

In response, a caucus was drafted that would fall in line with GOP rules and avoid the penalty. Delegate selection was shifted to the caucus while the original election served as only a sort of straw poll. I had thus expected the caucus to be quite similar to the election it was subverting. I was terribly mistaken. Voters could not simply cast a ballot for their chosen candidate. Instead, we were asked to vote among 23 contenders, nine of whom would be sent to the Senate GOP Convention as delegates. Interestingly, Rick Santorum somehow had only two committed contenders. Worse, Romney had just one. Almost all the other 20 were uncommitted, and participants had the luxury of blindly choosing among these. This made it impossible for the voter to support a presidential candidate. The entire exercise seemed constructed for no reason other than to withhold information from those present. That caucus chair-

man told us uncommitted delegates were necessary "because things might change quickly before the convention," but God help us if voters were given the choice — we might make a bad one. Saturday's caucus was also a burdensome three-hour affair, which greatly limited participation.

Some 85 voters showed up, compared to more than 800 during the February primaries. Though party members were quick to remark that Democrats left them little choice about the nomination process, it was ultimately Republicans who wrote the convoluted rules for their own caucus. As someone used to the efficacy of our voting system, the caucus I attended in Adair County is something I can only term a pathetic miscarriage of democracy.

*Alex Heeb
junior*

Political correctness doesn't solve issues

Limbaugh's comments about Fluke were right on, he just says it like it is in the real world of doers. Talkers in the PC world hide and watch, then cry foul and whimper and whine. This country was built by doers and, again, you PC wimps could learn more by doing than crying. You want a check? Then get to work.

*Paul Sherman
Springfield, Mo attorney*

Go to trumanindex.com/category/opinions for more letters to the editor.

INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909

Staff

Editor-in-Chief Andrea Hewitt
Managing Editor Blaise Hart-Schmidt
News Editor Jackie Kinealy
Assistant News Editors Andi Watkins Davis, Ashley Jost
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
Assistant Copy Chief Ashley Wolf
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 Christa DeClue, Grace Freeman, Huang Tran, Philip Zahnd
Photographers Hanna Bilinski, Lindsey Gillam, Rose Sparks, Grace Stojeba
Features Staff Emily Battmer, Alex Carlson, Scott Henson, David Hutchinson, Kate Linman, Jenn Marks
Sports Staff Jonny Brown, Garrett Fritch, Rob Jones, Tyler Poe, Tyler Sigris
Cartoonist Jenn Marks
Copy Editors Hanna Bilinski, Katey Carlton, Emily Haynes, Scott Henson, Elizabeth Koch, Jessica Phillips, Laurie Mattson, Megan Mehmert, Bob Overmann, Britney Stubbs, Andrea Trierweiler
Designers Colleen Glaeser, Kate Linman, Carly Robison
Advertising Shelby Hewerdine
Distribution Molly Bybee, Bradley LaPlante, David Morris
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. They must be submitted by email to 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. The Index does not publish anonymous letters to the editor. 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.