

# EDITORIAL

## Our View

### Index endorses Malin/Gordon for Senate

As Index editors, we follow Truman politics more closely than the average student — especially Student Senate, whose meetings we require an Assistant News Editor to attend every Sunday.

Based on our knowledge of Senate, the editorial board is endorsing junior Aaron Malin and freshman Ryan Gordon for president and vice president of the Student Association, respectively, for the upcoming election April 2-4.

Malin and Gordon are ideal candidates because of the extensive work they have accomplished for the University.

Malin spearheaded the campaign to provide same-sex partner benefits to faculty and staff and add sexual orientation to the Board of Governors non-discrimination policy late last fall. It already has been discussed by some of the major policy makers on campus: Board of Governors, Faculty Senate and Student Senate. This is more progress for equal rights for gays than we senior editors have seen since we've been at Truman. We applaud him for those efforts.

Malin also worked on expanding Pickler Memorial Library hours, increasing lighting/campus safety, improving student parking and chaired the grants and sponsorships committee.

Gordon has served on the executive staff for junior Ryan Nely, current president of the Student Association, which is his close cabinet of advisers, and helped update and determine Senate's budget. He also worked on the grant and sponsorships committee with Malin.

The initiative they have taken combined with their experience and knowledge of Senate makes them the ideal candidates for president and vice president.

The only others who have thrown their hat in the ring are sophomore Greg Popham and junior Dylan Phillips. On their Facebook page, they say, "We will solve the budget crisis through sponsorships, smart decision making and Truman intuition." Their only idea for sponsorship, according to their Facebook page, is having corporate sponsors for Truman Athletics. When the editorial board contacted Popham and Phillips about their work on these ideas, they were just that — ideas. They hadn't sought out interest levels from corporations or even talked to Truman administration to find out if it was a feasible option.

They also claim "every student's opinion on this campus is valuable and we want to hear them all," but they declined to participate in a public debate with Malin and Gordon sponsored by the Index, News36 and KTRM. Also, Popham and Phillips have not attended a single Senate meeting, meaning they likely are unaware of the major issues Senate currently is facing.

Popham and Phillips platform also includes a proposal to recruit campus service organizations to help with landscaping and maintenance at Truman to save money for the University. While the idea shows creative thinking to address the budget cuts, it's not well thought-out. If students are doing grounds keeping, will the Physical Plant have less work? Fewer jobs? The implications of the proposal are bigger than the scope of Student Senate's role.

Because Popham and Phillips have refused to be transparent in their campaign, lack research behind their ideas and lack Senate experience, they are the wrong choice for president and vice president.

We think Malin and Gordon are the best choice for president and vice president of the Student Association because they can use their experience to move Truman forward.

We fully support Malin-Gordon 2012.

## INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909

### Staff

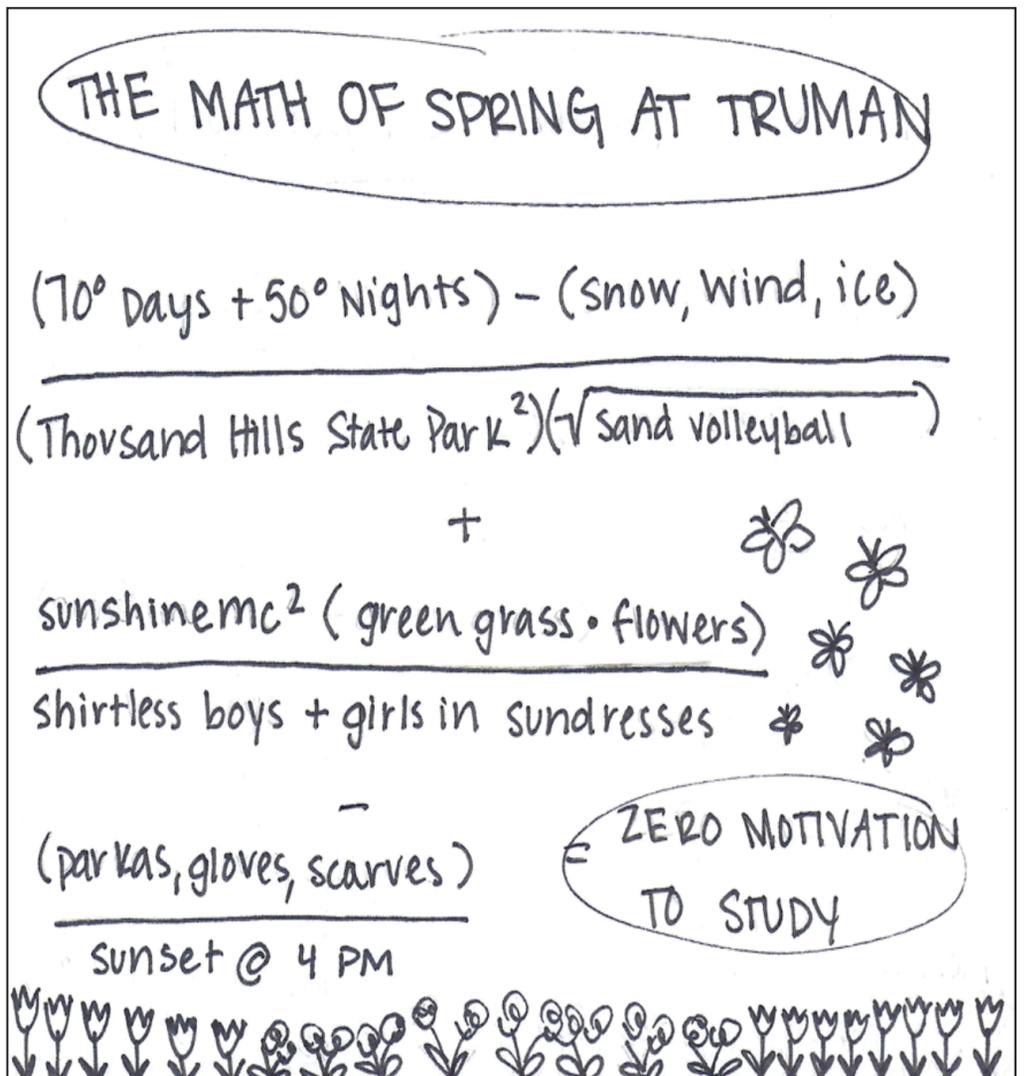
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To submit corrections or to contact the editor, please email [index.editor@gmail.com](mailto:index.editor@gmail.com), call us at 660-785-4449 or send a letter to Index, 1200 Barnett Hall, Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo., 63501.

## Cartoon

By Jenn Marks



## Letters to the Editor

### Harley-Davidson rumors prove false

I am concerned about misinformation spreading through Kirksville which needs to be corrected. The false rumor is that supposedly our city government received and turned down an offer from the Harley-Davidson Company to build a plant in Kirksville. There was never any such offer made by the Harley-Davidson Company to our community.

In fact, this is documented in an article in the Kirksville Daily Express dated March 5, 2004, entitled "Harley-Davidson: We Never Looked at Kirksville for a New Plant." In this article, the Harley-Davidson Company spokesperson Kate Pella states

clearly that rumors circulating that Kirksville city officials had "brushed aside an offer to construct a new plant" are unfounded. She stated that "there are no plans to build additional plants in Missouri and there have not been."

With respect, before we believe an unsubstantiated rumor, we need to see or provide documentation and to make sure it is supported by fact. Otherwise, it lacks credibility and risks dividing the community of Kirksville against itself, just when we are working hard together and aspiring towards increased economic and cultural improvement. The fact is, the community as a whole including all our townspeople, educators, government leaders and surrounding local rural communities would have been delighted at the prospect of such an

offer by Harley-Davidson Company. The various college authorities, then and now, would not have failed, in any way, to appreciate the renown and promise of such a company's economic value. Presently, we need and value objectivity and strategic planning.

And my proposal of a small business hearings commission in the future would ensure that not only the Council adopted supportive criteria to any real offer, but also we in the wider community would be represented consultatively. I write to you in my capacity as a member of the Planning and Zoning and Historic Preservation Commissions to correct a gross inaccuracy.

Betty McLane-Iles  
French professor

### 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

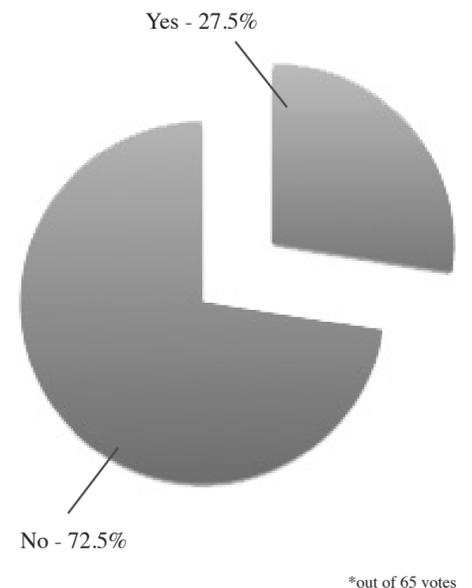
The Index welcomes letters to the editor from the University community. Letters to the editor are due by noon the Monday before publication and become property of the Index. Submissions are subject to editing, must contain a well-developed theme and cannot exceed 500 words except at the discretion of 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 [opinionseditor@gmail.com](mailto: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. The Index does not publish anonymous letters to the editor. No individual may submit more than one letter a week.

### Advertising Policy

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## Web Poll

Should Truman make all classes worth four credit hours?



This week's web poll question:

Should there be a limit to how long presidential candidates are allowed to campaign?

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