

EDITORIAL

Our View

Professors should not use classroom to push own ideals

As journalists, we are forced to combat our personal biases and do our best to produce balanced news for our readers. We admit, it is not always a simple task and we aren't always perfect, but it's our job.

The same should apply to education professionals.

At a public university like Truman State, we expect a non-biased education, free of propaganda. It's what we are paying \$6,722 a year for.

If someone wants to study religion or politics, it should be from a textbook

or a professor in that field. Never should educators use their authority as a platform to push their ideals. A podium is different from a soapbox.

Tuesday afternoon, communication professor

Barry Poyner was dressed in a diaper and carrying a petition to keep Truman's campus dry. He used part of his class time to explain his platform and pass out the petition asking, but not requiring, students to sign. Even worse, he wore the diaper the entire class period. Learning communication from a grown man wearing a diaper must have been incredibly distracting.

Educators control students' grades. By presenting students with petitions or an occasion to debate a topic of personal interest to the professor, the students are put in an awkward, unfair situation. Should they compromise their ideals to please the teacher, or stand up for what they think and fear a

potential grade drop? One would hope no professor would stoop to such a level, but when an educator turns a lecture into a platform for a personal agenda, it's difficult to understand his or her ethics.

We understand a gimmick gets more people's attention, but Poyner should have used another method, outside the classroom, to get his message across. Subjecting his students to his ideals likely distracted from their lesson plan and made for an uneasy learning experience.

Never should educators use their authority as a platform to push their ideals. A podium is different from a soapbox.

The University often sees similar forms of protests and rants. Most students are familiar with Brother Jed's sermons on The Quad and The Mall. These public spaces are appropriate venues to spread

opinions. Students who disagree with the message or do not want to listen simply can move on. A classroom is different.

We understand educators are human — it isn't always easy to mask personal biases, and in some instances, biases are helpful to convey a message in a lecture. For example, to explain an ethics theory, a professor could explain a personal scenario in which he or she was involved, and thus, state their political or religious affiliations.

However, there is a fine line between a professor mentioning his or her views about something and using class time to pass around a petition that supports a personal cause.

Corrections

The date of a calendar event in last week's issue was incorrect. The lecture by biology professor Tim Walston titled, "What can a worm tell us about the human embryo: using a model system to understand human development," is tonight at 7 p.m. in Magruder 2001.

The article on page 1 of last week's issue about special education certification misstates the University's changes to the program for 2012-13. Masters of Arts in Education students can still meet certification through the state of Missouri to teach special education by completing certification in elementary or one of the secondary specialty areas and passing the Praxis exam for special education.

The play review on page 10 of last week's issue attributed a quote to theater professor Ronnie Rybkowski. It was actually said by alumnus Ronnie Rybkowski.

The pull quote on page 4 of last week's issue had a typo. It should have read, "Truman needs to make a bigger effort to get students involved in the community to use those extra hours for good."

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.

Cartoons

There was no sign of the missing person, all three suspects had skipped town, and as I walked back to my apartment to see if my cat had vomited again I thought: This is just one of those days. Most folks would figure this could all be fixed with a couple million dollars and a plane ticket to the Caribbean, but I am too much of a cynic for that. Money solves nothing. You want evidence? Just look at my clients.



Letters to the Editor

University should remain a dry campus

Truman State is a dry campus, but recently an exception was made to the policy to allow alcohol before a football game. On Oct. 7 the Board of Governors will consider whether to follow further exceptions. Of course, exceptions can and often do lead to new guidelines. Many of us want to let the Board of Governors know that we enjoy the dry campus and are opposed to alcohol on campus.

At the Ekklesia Campus House for Churches of Christ we often have tailgate parties for the football games, but do not believe we need alcohol to have a good time. Believing it is our Christian duty to stand up for what is right, many of us have signed a petition: "We the undersigned, students and concerned community members, urge the board to deny future requests for alcohol consumption on the campus in tailgating events before athletics contests. We believe any policy encouraging alcohol consumption is flawed and respectfully ask the Board to keep our campus dry."

Even before this development, we had designated our Monday 9 p.m. devotional

as a "Spiritual Nightcap" based on Eph. 5:18-19: be filled with the Spirit, not spirits! If you desire to add your name to the petition or lend your support to the cause, email ekklekia.truman@yahoo.com or write Ekklesia Campus Ministry, CSI Office, Truman State University, 100 E. Normal, Kirksville, MO 63501.

Barry C. Poyner
communication professor

Students' money impacts local economy

With a residential population of around 17,000, Kirksville is heavily influenced by the influx of 5,700ish Truman students plus over a thousand ATSUers each fall. Disposable income at the ready, students bring economic opportunity to this rural town, as they arrive eager to spend at restaurants, shops, bars, and Walmart (if necessary).

Money spent at local businesses circulates around the community and keeps the blood pumping through the economy's veins. How students spend their money can influence the success or failure of

a business in town. The student-voter participation in the community may be worse than shameful, but students consistently whip out their dollars to vote on what businesses they support or don't.

This places a happy burden of responsibility in the hands of those who participate in the local economy. If you spend any cent in this town, this burden is yours.

Knowing this, think about what you vote for.

Consider the ethics behind what you vote for.

Don't spend money on businesses that go against what you believe.

If you believe in the local foods movement, spend money at the Farmers' Market.

If you support independent movies, buy tickets to a showing in town.

Conversely, if large chain stores make you cringe, go to the shops around The Square.

Or if you hear consistent anecdotes about sexist mistreatment at a sleazy bar, avoid it.

You've got a wallet-sized voice. Yell loudly with it.

Meg Burik
senior

INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909

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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

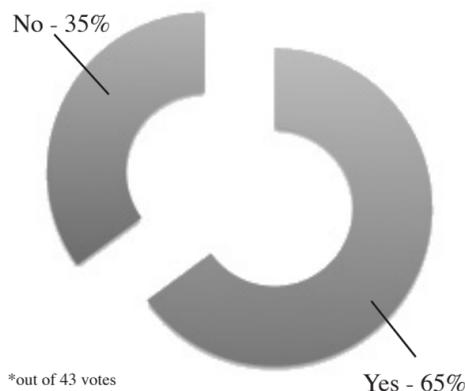
The Index welcomes letters to the editor from the University community. Letters to the editor are due by noon the Monday before publication and become property of the Index. Submissions are subject to editing, must contain a well-developed theme and cannot exceed 500 words except at the discretion of 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@truman.edu 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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Web Poll

Has Facebook become an invasion of privacy?



This week's web poll question:

Should businesses be allowed to sell their products on the sidewalks of The Square?

Vote online at trumanindex.com