

Our View

Responsible tailgating could lead to future events

Truman State is not known for its athletics, but they play a major role in judging the prestige of a university. The addition of tailgating events on campus could help make sports at Truman more popular.

Tailgating, although it might seem like just an afternoon of food, beer and football, does have an impact on a university. It will provide a reason for past Bulldog fans to come back and relive their glory days at Truman, which might encourage them to donate more to their alma mater.

While students attend games for free, the number of ticket sales to Kirksville residents and former Truman students are likely to increase, bringing a larger profit to the athletic department than previous games. Increased profit to the athletic department could lead to improved teams, which would add to Truman's appeal for prospective students.

Before the Sept. 10 football game against Fort Hays State University, Bulldog fans will be able to participate in a one-game trial of on-campus tailgating (see story, page 1). Tailgating will begin three hours before to kick off in a designated parking lot. Beer and wine are the only alcoholic beverages permitted, and they must be consumed out of plastics cups that will be provided upon entrance. Each participant is restricted to one parking space. As this is a trial event, it will be heavily regulated to ensure safety. If all goes well, the University might consider making tailgating an option for the 2012 football season.

On a dry campus, the addition of tailgating, if for only one game, is a major stepping-stone. We commend University President Troy Paino for making the difficult decision to allow an exception to the dry campus for this game. Therefore, we must act responsibly. We admit there are immense restrictions being enforced, but these are in place to ensure the pilot event is conducted safely. If the rules are followed by students and community members, there is a greater chance tailgating could be permanently allowed on campus. Presumably, once tailgating proves to be handled responsibly, the regulations will be lessened. We urge students to not take these restrictions lightly. Drinking and behaving responsibly could lead to future tailgating freedoms.

Tossing a football in the parking lot, eating hot dogs, taking pictures with Spike the Bulldog, sipping beer and getting riled up for the big game with other fans covered in purple paint — this is what tailgating could be like on Truman's campus if the trial run goes well. We encourage everyone to have fun and enjoy the day, just act responsibly.

Corrections

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.

Cartoon



Letters to the Editor

Planned Parenthood deserves merit

I am writing in response to Leslie Bosslet's letter published in the Aug. 20 issue of the Index regarding the merits of Planned Parenthood. As a faculty member and a women's health nurse, I am distressed by content composed by a Truman student that reflects such a failure of critical thinking. For the sake of Index readers who may be similarly disinclined to seek reliable sources or critically evaluate knowledge claims, I feel obligated to provide some counterpoint.

The level of statistical illiteracy demonstrated in the letter would be funny if it weren't coming from someone who will eventually represent the quality of a Truman education to the world. In the second paragraph, the author conflates numbers of services provided by Planned Parenthood with numbers of individuals served by Planned Parenthood as if these were interchangeable variables. Perhaps the author, in a state of vehement opposition to family planning, is unaware that clinics rarely dispense a full year of birth control in a single visit.

Although she accurately adds four numbers together in the fifth paragraph and successfully subtracts the total from 100, the author then speculates wildly about unlabeled data in a previously published pie chart. Surely unlabeled wedges in a pie chart reveal dark conspiracies rather than clumped data omitted for visual clarity. Surely unsubstantiated speculation is more valid than any number of primary sources available detailing the services provided by this 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, such as the annual report posted on Planned Parenthood's website.

I was most aghast at the author's reference to videos posted online by the organization Live Action and claims that Planned Parenthood is involved in sex trafficking. I would refer readers to two points of information. First,

the videos in question are creatively edited and (to the extent that they show anything about Planned Parenthood's practices) actually show employees following appropriate protocols for protecting underage patients. See why is Live Action doctoring its Planned Parenthood audio at <http://mediamatters.org/blog/201102040026>. Secondly, I would recommend reading Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards' letter dated January 18, 2011, addressed to the attorney general of the United States, available at http://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/PPFA/fact_AG_Holder_011811.pdf. She describes visits to multiple Planned Parenthood clinics by a man seeking "information about services relating to testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, abortions and services for minors." She acknowledges that the visits may be a hoax perpetrated by a small group known for creating doctored "undercover" videos of politically targeted organizations, but requests that the FBI and Department of Justice investigate in case there really were trafficked children at risk.

Finally, as a woman who benefited from the services available through Planned Parenthood during my own undergraduate days here in Kirksville and as a women's health nurse, I must take issue with Bosslet's claim that the organization "provides unreliable health care." Any facility that makes comprehensive family planning, evidence-based STI treatment and CDC-recommended cancer screening services available at low to no charge is an asset to any community.

Melissa Blagg Holcomb
associate professor of nursing

Obama must make positive change

It is pretty clear now that Obama intends to run for a second presidential term, is it not? However, what is

less clear and requires public input from the local progressive community is how and why he should run, as, alas, it's difficult to deny his presidency has not been anywhere near as fulfilling to his many young supporters as those who flocked to him, even locally hereabouts, last time in sheer young volunteer power.

One realizes exactly why his more conservative advisers, like the ex-congressman guy who is now Chicago's mayor, want him to just run, lazily, and do so negatively. Yes, the sins of U.S. conservatives are blockingly absurd in their continued anti-choice for women's fertility rights and appalling stances, which, back, in my native Europe would be accurately designated as reactionarily Fascist in Fox News Channel nastiness of maledom.

Instead of just being negative, why should Obama not suggest positive change worthy of his evident soaring rhetoric tendencies, but this new term time in future practice? Conservative-Liberal Coalition that ruled Germany has just this summer decided to phase out all dangerous nuke power in 12 years, following the Japan shock earlier this year.

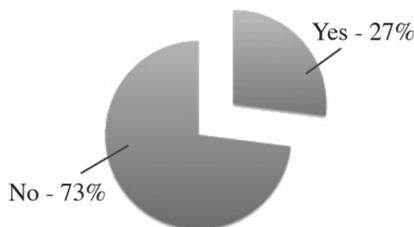
A provincial election result that has been seen lands first on the Green Party, no less, premier heading a Green-Socialist coalition committed to no more nukes radioactivity ever riskiness. Australia's female-led, Labor-Green governments are even proposing to ban all equally pollutant cigarette advertising as ruinous in costliness to health, and even my own Britain is, at least, ourselves breaking-up to deal with Murdoch's Fox abusive empire.

If Obama decided so to do, he could propose a similar positive program of action, and thus, we could cease in, always, being so backward here in the over-selfishness-obsessed USA, couldn't we all?

Larry Iles
Kirksville resident

Web Poll

Should subsidized loans be cut for graduate students?



*out of 45 votes

This week's web poll question:

Do you plan to tailgate at the Sept. 10 football game?

Vote online at trumanindex.com

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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.

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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. 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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