

## Our View

### Safe cycling can improve health, community

A year ago, the brother of the opinions editor was riding his bike to work when he was hit by a car. The motorist drove off and left him lying on the pavement as if nothing happened. After several immobile months, broken bones, stitches and a surgery, he was back on his bike. If he hadn't been wearing a helmet, he might not have survived.

Sadly this isn't a rare case. A Kirksville man was riding his bike in Troy Mills recently when he was struck by a van (see story, page 1). He now is in critical condition at the University Hospital in Columbia, Mo.

Biking has become a major part of our culture, especially on a college campus. The cyclists and motorists must understand safety precautions and cyclists' rights on the road to avoid accidents.

In Missouri, cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as any other motorist, according to the Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Federation. They must ride with traffic, not against it, and when operating at a lesser speed than the flow of traffic, a cyclist should ride near the right side of the road.

Though it is not required in Missouri, MoBikeFed encourages the use of helmets. Other safety tips include wearing brightly colored clothing, using lights and/or reflectors at night, signaling before turning, switching lanes or slowing down and keeping a steady line.

The benefits of riding a bicycle instead of driving a car are obvious — no polluting exhaust or gas consumed and it's good for your health. However, bicycling also can have a positive impact on the community.

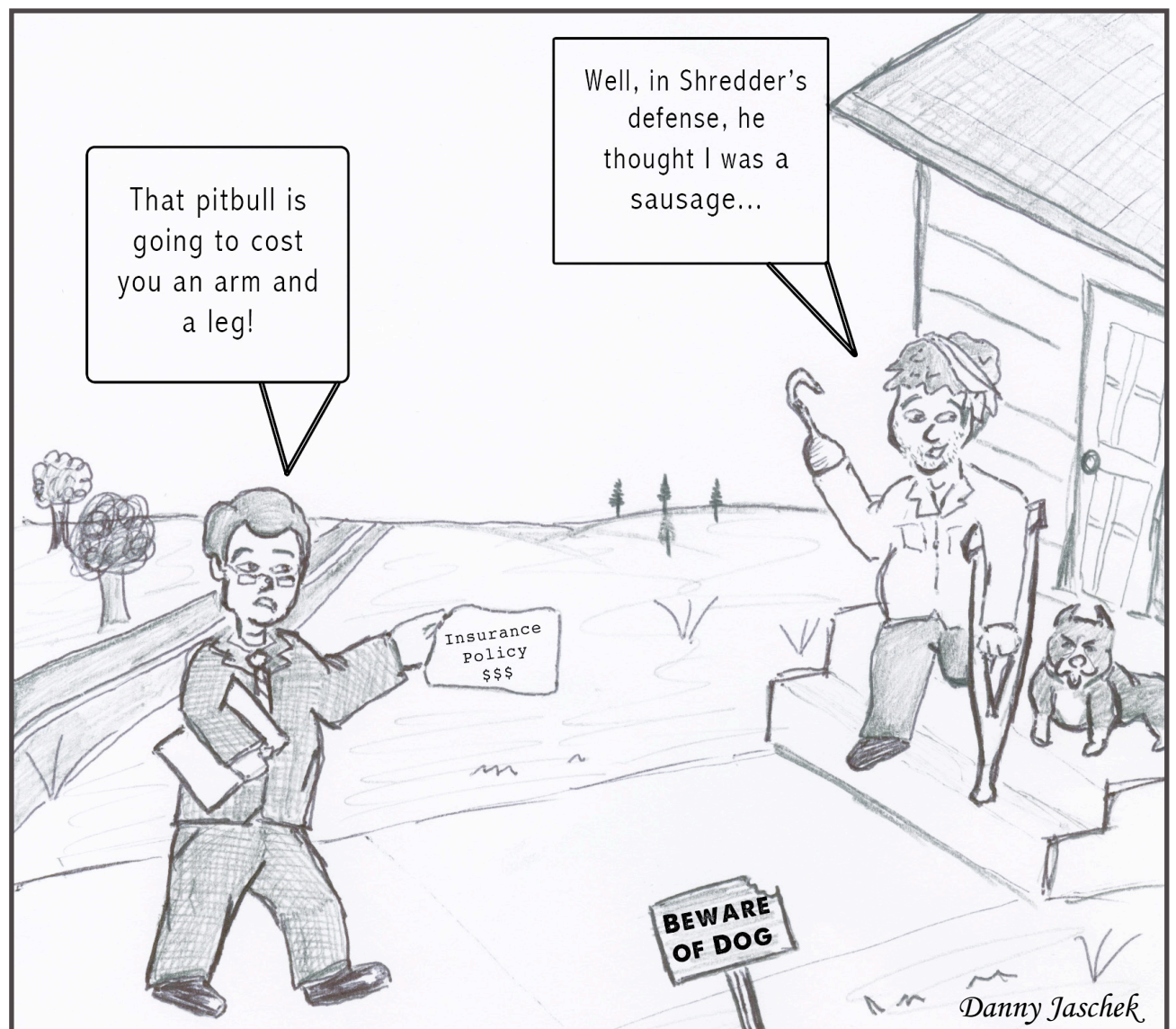
The Bike Co-op is working with the City on the Forest-Lake Area Trail System, which will connect Downtown Kirksville and Thousand Hills State Park making Kirksville more bike friendly. The Co-op also has been working with Kirksville Area Motion, a bike advocacy group, to receive grants to keep the Co-op running and fund a new building. The members of the Co-op are planning a bike awareness week for the week of Sept. 25. Events will feature free bike tune-ups, a cycling workshop and a social ride through town. Cycling does not have to be just a solo activity.

We encourage you to strap on a helmet and ride your bike to class, gather your friends to go on a ride through the park and participate in the bike awareness week. Know your rights and responsibilities, and when you're behind the wheel of a car, be cautious of your two-wheeled peers. Cycling is more than the latest eco-fad, it is a way of life, and more people should jump on the bike bandwagon.

## Corrections

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

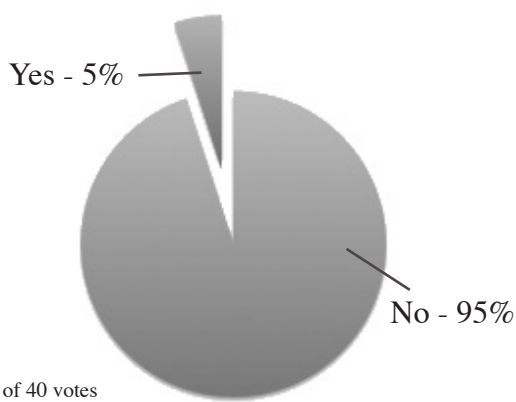
## Cartoon



## Letters to the Editor

### Web Poll

Would you buy 9/11 memorabilia?



This week's web poll question:

Should DPS ticket bikes on campus?

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

### Column lacks college sports research

[In response to a column in the Sept. 8 edition of the Index]

Mr. Vicars:

There are several factual errors in your "plan" to fund Truman athletics.

First off, Truman will never play a "powerhouse" team in football because the NCAA does not allow it.

What you were thinking of is a Div. I Football Bowl Subdivision team (Missouri, Oklahoma, Iowa, etc.) playing against a Div. I Football Championship Series team (Missouri State, Wichita State, Southeast Missouri State). Those are games involving Div. I schools, just different levels of Div. I.

The payoff for a game like that generally runs to several hundred thousand dollars for the smaller school. But Truman is a Div. II school and is not afforded the luxury.

You didn't mention this in your column, but Truman does take advantage of your plan in basketball. Div. I basketball schools are permitted by the NCAA to play two exhibition games each season against smaller division schools. Truman's basketball teams have taken advantage of that in the past few years with games against Missouri, UMKC, Drake and Western Illinois. The checks from those games have generally been a few thousand dollars. That doesn't exactly fund the athletic department.

Next, your idea that Truman could provide more scholarships with more cash flow is incorrect. The NCAA caps the number of scholarships each team receives. Every Div. II football school is allowed 36 scholarships for its football program. Truman generally gives out the maximum number of scholarships for football every year. Any increased cash flow would not change that.

Next time, it might be nice to do a little research before putting your column to print.

*Brent Foster  
Truman alumnus*

### Planned Parenthood doesn't deserve merit

In the Sept. 1 issue of the Index, Ms. Holcomb used the word merit to describe Planned Parenthood. According to the Oxford Dictionary defines merit: excellence, worth. Hardly the word that should be used. Let's look at some facts:

It is America's Top Abortion Chain 332,278 abortions were performed at clinics associated with the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) in 2009. (PPFA Factsheet, January 2011)

There were 1,212,400 abortions performed in the U.S. in 2008 (Guttmacher, "Abortion... in the U.S., 2008"). The latest figures make Planned Parenthood responsible for more than a quarter of U.S. abortions, or more than one out of every four.

Abortions in the U.S. have dropped by 25% since 1990. Rates and raw numbers have not been this low since the 1970s (Guttmacher, "Abortion... in the U.S., 2008"). While dropping in the U.S. as a whole, abortions performed at PPFA clinics during the same time frame (1990-2009) have increased by 251% (PPFA, 1991 Service Report PPFA Factsheet, January 2011!)

Planned Parenthood clinics advertise and perform more expensive chemical and surgical abortions, including some late into the second trimester (e.g., [www.pphouston.org](http://www.pphouston.org), 3/20/08 [www.ppct.org](http://www.ppct.org), 3/19/08).

With 332,278 abortions performed in 2009, at current average rates for first trimester abortions (\$451), over a third (approx. \$149.9 million) of PPFA's clinic revenues (\$404.9 million) would come from abortion (Guttmacher, "Abortion... in the U.S., 2008 PPFA 2008-09 Annual Report").

While Planned Parenthood downplays the significance of abortion, saying it represents only 3% of its service, the truth is that abortion plays a much more significant role in both Planned Parenthood's agenda and bottom line. It arrives at this 3% figure by counting everything given to, or done for, a given patient as a separate service. So if a young mom comes into a PP clinic for an abortion,

she'll probably have a pregnancy test, maybe a test for an STD, and then may receive a packet of birth control pills after her abortion. So is that one "service" or four? PP counts each of these as a separate service. Moreover, this same woman coming in for an abortion may receive three, four or more additional services, such as antibiotic, and Rh type and hemoglobin test, all connected to her abortion visit. When counted separately, it makes it look like abortion was only one among several other more conventional "reproductive health care" services or procedures (see PPFA's 3/11 fact sheet on services @ [www.plannedparenthood.org/file/PPFA/PP-Services.pdf](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/file/PPFA/PP-Services.pdf)). However the truth is that "in looking at those services intrinsically connected to pregnancy, abortion, prenatal care, and adoption" 97.6% were abortion (National Right to Life News, April/May 2011 p.11).

There are numberless stories of girls and women pushed into abortions without giving them information about the baby or the procedure. For an example see <http://www.worldmag.com/webextra/18590>.

See also the report published by the Life Dynamics on Child Predators. (<http://www.plannedparenthoodexposed.com/ReadReport.cfm>) showing with a nationwide undercover expose of PP's cover-ups of child predators.

Despite claims that it believes in "putting power in women's hands to make moral, informed choices," PPFA has consistently opposed informed consent or "right to know" laws. These require that the woman know about the actual abortion procedures, their risks of perforation of uterus, ectopic pregnancies, infertility, scarring, etc., as well as be given the opportunity to know the child's stages of development and to have an ultrasound. (PPFA Annual Report, 1998-99 e.g., PP of Southeastern PA vs Casey, 1992)

These are just some of the shameful facts that surround PP with controversy.

PP does not deserve any merit awards, rather should be shown on the American History wall of shame.

*Jim and Nora Gates  
Kirksville residents*

## INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909

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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. 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](mailto:index@truman.edu) 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. No individual may submit more than one letter a week.

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