

# EDITORIAL

## Our View

### Unnecessary risk management policy frustrates

Safety is and always should be a top priority at this University. However, there is such a thing as being too cautious.

The Center for Student Involvement is now requiring all campus organizations to select a risk manager and add a risk management section to their constitutions (see story, page 2). University administrators hope this will force organizations to think more about potential risks to minimize them. It also will make individual groups more liable in the event of damage or injury.

To some degree, this makes sense — having a plan to ensure safety and being aware of what to do if something goes wrong. At the same time, it is impossible to cover every situation that might arise. University general counsel Warren Wells said student leaders can be liable for injuries or damages at events so they should be careful to make sure they are following the policies they set.

The Index has potlucks sometimes. If we don't include a clause in our constitution about how to handle the preparation of food and someone gets food poisoning and sues the Index, does that weight fall on our risk manager's back? It seems like the University should have some responsibility because it charters organizations, but instead are they just going to say "Well, you should have thought of putting that in your risk management policy?"

Greek organizations have risk management programs

enforced by their national entities, and by having this, they are protected in the event of a lawsuit if they can prove they were following the risk precautions. In a Greek organization where parties and events frequently serve copious amounts of alcohol, this is necessary. If a fraternity was sued every time someone became drunk and did something stupid, it would cease to exist. When it comes to some other campus organizations, though, risk management seems a little over the top.

▮ Requiring organizations to think about every potential risky situation might make them more aware, but it also will make them freak out. ▮

Take, for example, the campus knitting club Stitch 'n Bitch. What would their policy look like — making sure everyone knows how to properly hold their needles so they aren't poked in the eye?

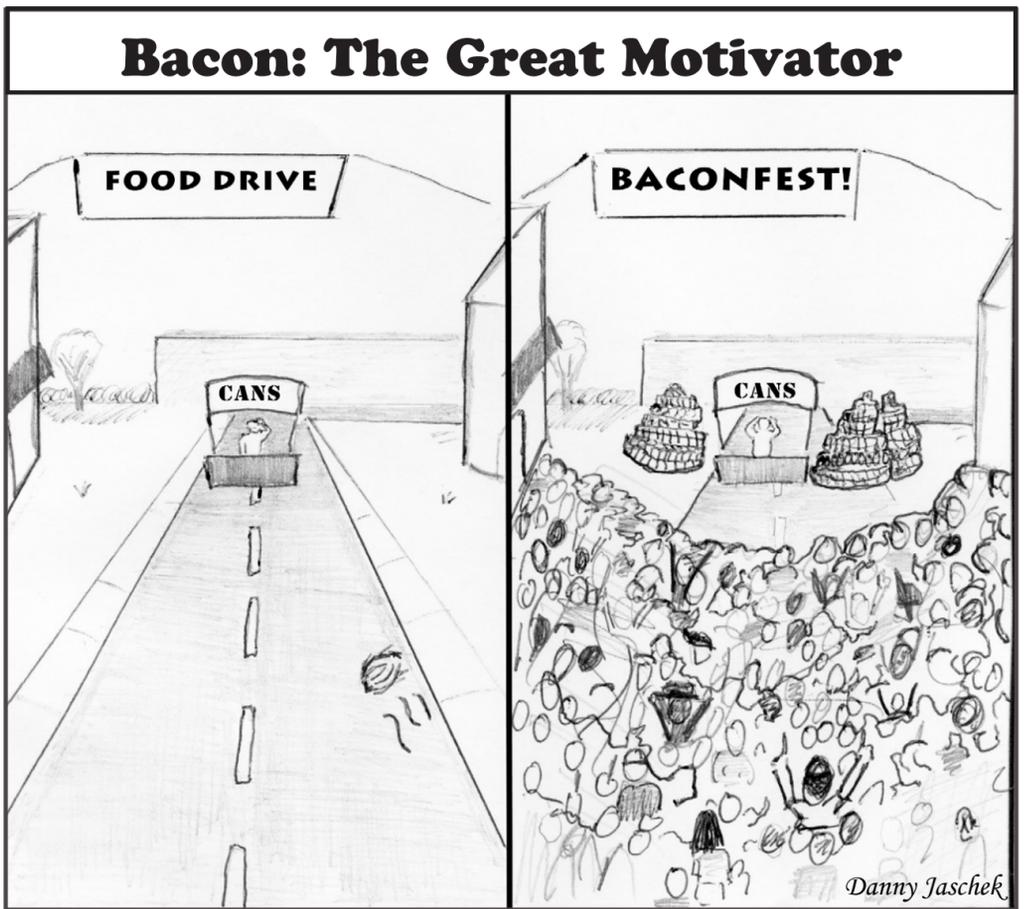
We understand this policy is in place to minimize risk and that it is better to be safe than sorry, but most clubs are already trying to minimize risk. The Index has never endorsed stapler fights in the office and we have never told strangers our door code. Why? Because we don't want people to get hurt and we don't want our equipment stolen. We did it all without having a risk management policy in place.

Requiring organizations to think about every potential risky situation might make them more aware, but it also will make them freak out. Overanalyzing every aspect of every situation that could arise at every organization event with the fear of a lawsuit if not properly done will cause an ulcer. And who is going to cover that?

## 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.

## Cartoons



To this day, it remains unclear how much Carl drank that night or where the goat came from. One thing, however, was certain: turning 21 had not made him a responsible drinker.

## INDEX

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### Editorial Policy

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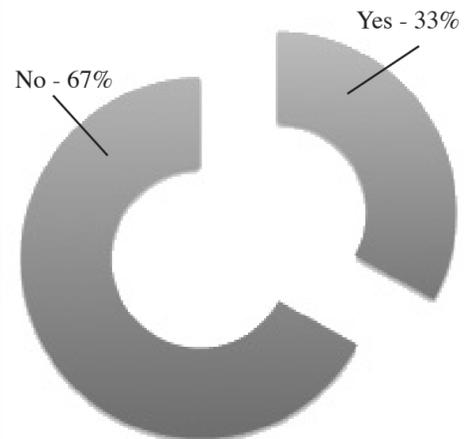
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## Web Poll

Should DPS ticket bikes on campus?



\*out of 61 votes

This week's web poll question:

Should KU change their mascot due to the Osceola, Mo., resolution?

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