

EDITORIAL

Our View

University should encourage major-specific volunteering

Students devote about 15 hours a week to classes, leaving 153 hours a week open to choices. After homework, some are involved in campus organizations or have outside jobs. Others veg on the couch watching TV. Truman State needs to make a bigger effort to get students involved in the community to use those extra hours to improve their temporary home.

Community service, while important everywhere, especially is vital in Adair County where 23 percent of residents have an income below the poverty level, according to the 2010 census.

Volunteering does not have to be a struggle. In fact, it can reinforce lessons learned in the classroom, so not only would the community be benefiting but students could learn practical skills for their future career.

The Health Action Center opened last Friday in Milan, Mo., and Hablantes Unidos, a student organization that provides English tutoring to Hispanic immigrants in the area, will assist in translating medical forms and information at doctor appointments (see story, page 1). Many of these student volunteers are Spanish majors or minors, and this encourages them to speak and understand the language in real life situations. The Milan residents also will have more efficient access to medical information. It's a win-win situation.

Other examples of major-specific volunteer work exist as well. Beta Alpha Psi, an international scholastic and

professional organization for Financial Information Professionals, provides free tax help to students and community members every tax season. Beta Beta Beta, a biology organization, hosts a "Science on Saturday" event once a semester to get local kids excited about science.

We think the University should require students to perform at least 20 hours of community service that relates to their major. Requiring service hours is not a new idea — many high schools require up to 100 or more to graduate.

This might sound like another hoop to jump through, but that's only five hours each year of college. For this to

work, each department would have to help provide students with these opportunities.

For example, agriculture students could volunteer to work with local farmers or

give horseback riding lessons to Kirksville youth. Communication students could help a small, local business improve its marketing campaign or help high school students produce a school newspaper. MAE students could join Campus Pals to begin working with children before they enter the classroom. The opportunities are endless.

Many major-specific extra curricular organizations already exist, but they must become more involved in the community. Whether we view Kirksville as "our" community, for at least four years, it is our home. Make it the best possible, and maybe even learn a little along the way.

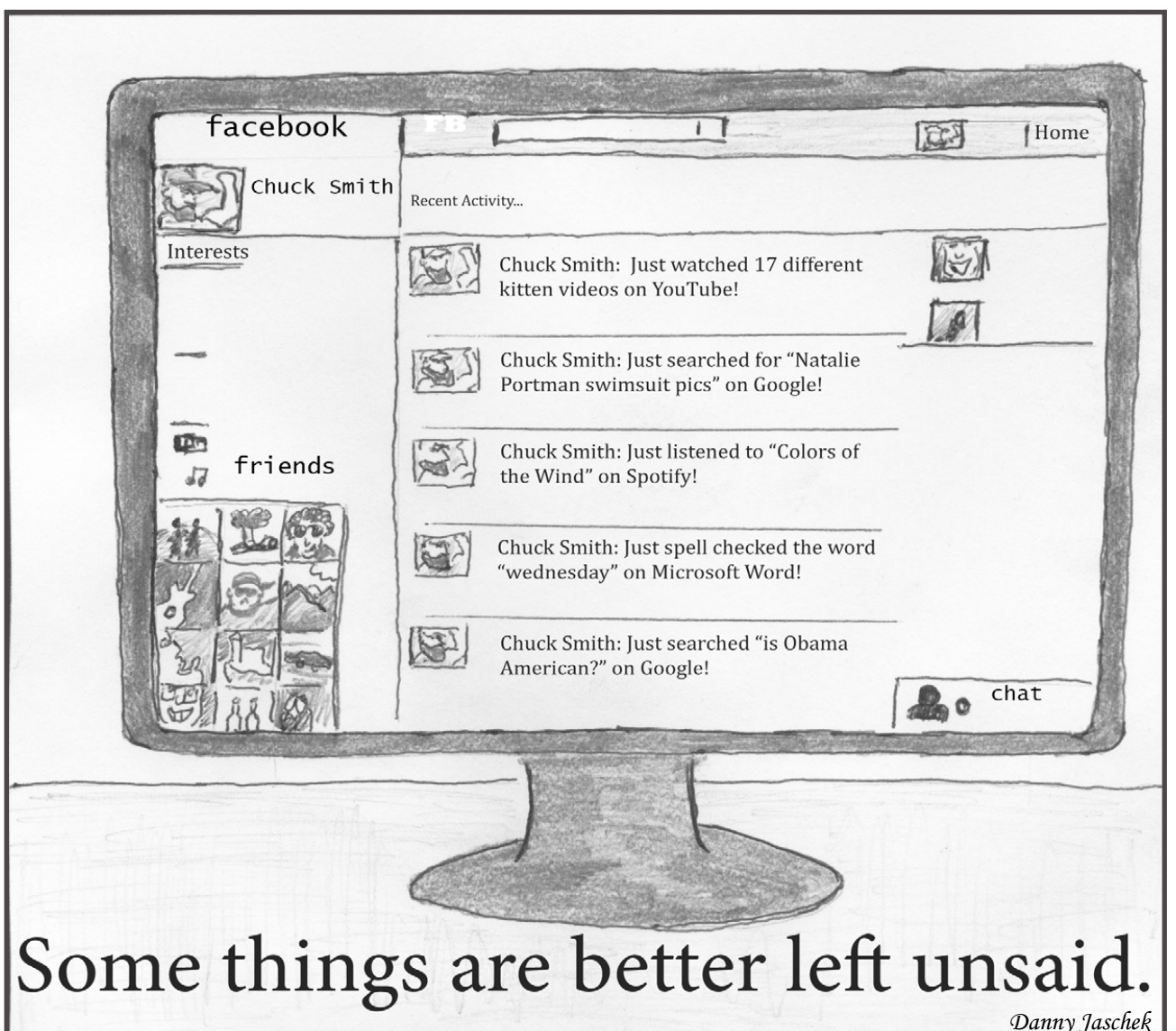
Truman needs to make a bigger effort to get students involved in the community to use those extra hours for good.

Corrections

The headline on page 8 for the unrelated spread of the rape victims in the Sept. 22 edition of the Index was wrong. It said it was a 9/11 vigil when the photos were actually of a tent sponsored by the Women's Resource Center to raise awareness of survivors of sexual abuse. The online PDF is correct.

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



Some things are better left unsaid.

Danny Jaschek

Back in MY day we never would have complained about a residence hall without air conditioning. We were lucky to have four walls! We did homework by candlelight, used umbrellas inside when it rained, walked barefoot 10 miles uphill both ways to get to class, in the snow, and we were GRATEFUL!



INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909

Staff

Editor-in-Chief Andrea Hewitt
Managing Editor Blaise Hart-Schmidt
News Editor Jackie Kinealy
Assistant News Editor Philip Zahnd
Features Editor Kathleen Barbosa
Assistant Features Editor John O'Brien
Sports Editor Brett McMillan
Assistant Sports Editor Sam Sherman
Opinions Editor Molly Skyles
Copy Chief Brittany Keeling
Online Editor Patrick Gross
Assistant Editor Ken Dusold
Assistant Design Chief Erik Lalonde
Photography Editor Jessie Poole
Multimedia Editor Dan Warner
Advertising Manager Sam Leister
Business Manager Ashley Thomas
News Staff Chelsey Coffee, Andi Watkins Davis, Grace Freeman, Markia A. Holt, Ashley Jost, Calli Price, Huong Tran
Features Staff Emily Battmer, Alex Carlson, Bethany Coury, Ken Dusold, Scott Henson, Mikey Kartje, Abby Twenter
Sports Staff Brooke Daly, Will Evans, Meredith Kusky, Tyler Poe, Kirk Schlueter, Tyler Sigrist
Cartoonists Allison Bannister, Danny Jaschek
Copy Editors Hanna Bilinski, Carly Bolliger, Katey Carlton, Emily Haynes, Scott Henson, Elizabeth Koch, Jessica Phillips, Laurie Mattson, Megan Mehmert, Britney Stubbs, Andrea Trierweiler, Ashley Wolf
Photographers Lindsey Borgna, Sonny Phan
Designer Colleen Glaeser, Lauren Moll
Advertising Hannah Rickman, Jack Nicholl
Distribution Molly Bybee, Bradley LaPlante
Adviser Don Krause

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

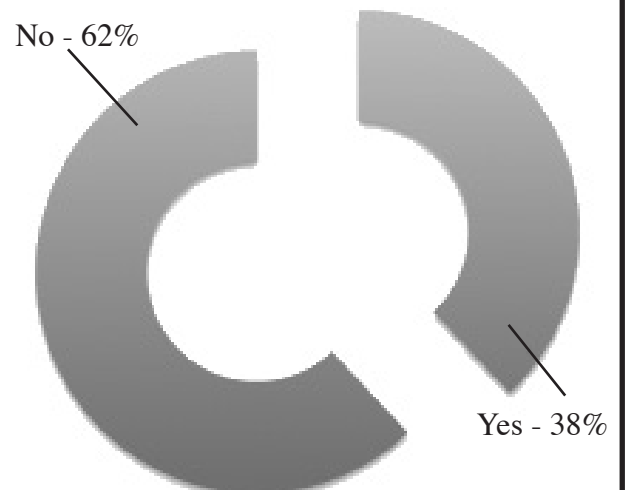
The Index welcomes letters to the editor from the University community. Letters to the editor are due by noon the Monday before publication and become property of the Index. Submissions are subject to editing, must contain a well-developed theme and cannot exceed 500 words except at the discretion of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

Advertising Policy

For up-to-date information on current rates or to inquire about the availability of classified ads in the Index, contact our advertising department at 785-4319. Our fax number is 785-7601, or you can e-mail us at tsu.indexads@gmail.com.

Web Poll

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



This week's web poll question:

Has Facebook become an invasion of privacy?

Vote online at trumanindex.com