

EDITORIAL

Gender neutral housing should be expanded

With the topic of gender-neutral housing undergoing intense discussion at Truman State, we felt it was important to voice our support for the implementation of a gender-neutral housing option.

Through building renovations, program implementation and organization creation, Truman always has pushed to improve the quality of living for its students, giving them an environment where they feel safe and included. Although the University has made great strides in serving the students' needs and providing them with options, it seems necessary to continue working and the implementation of this housing option could be a step in the right direction.

For us, this isn't an issue about endorsing any particular lifestyle, because we think that is not our place. Supporting this option is a matter of equality and wanting all Bulldogs to feel appreciated, accepted and comfortable. As students, we deserve to have a safe and comfortable living space where we can be ourselves without fear of judgment. This policy would give students that option.

It is essential to remember that this only is an option for students, and not mandatory. Allowing others to live as they choose does not have to infringe upon the way anyone else lives.

As the debate continues, it is important to remember that even though people ask your opinion, it does not give you the moral authority to pass judgment nor to elevate yourself above your peers.

In addition, the implementation of this housing option would give Truman a more progressive campus on par with today's ever-changing society. Other Missouri universities already have created this housing option and Truman's use of the option could make it a more competitive option as well as demonstrating the University's progressive nature.

While we endorse this change, it might not go far enough because freshman would not be able to participate. The first year of college is a crucial time for exploration, acceptance and learning about yourself. Not allowing freshmen to participate implies they are not mature enough to embrace and accept classmates and roommates who are different than they are.

Don't doubt the tenacity and capacity for empathy and understanding that students can have. Even freshmen.

Corrections

Last week's page one "Faculty Senate supports domestic partner benefits" story incorrectly stated that Faculty Senate unanimously passed the partner benefits resolution. This resolution actually was passed unanimously with three abstentions.

Last week's page one "Faculty Senate supports domestic partner benefits" story incorrectly quoted Jeff Gall, Faculty Senate Alternate Representative, and incorrectly stated that Gall urged senators to vote for this bill because of how it would reflect on the Senate if it was not passed.

To submit corrections or to contact the editor, please email index.editor@gmail.com, call us at 660-785-4449 or send a letter to Index, 1200 Barnett Hall, Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo., 63501.

Cartoon

By Megan Archer



Sexism is rampant in sports



Mackenzie McDermott

My mother subscribes to the NFL Sunday ticket and watches every game of every season. I also grew up playing almost every organized athletic sport known to man, including tackle football and Taekwondo. Because of my involvement with and knowledge of sports, I never saw or understood that most girls don't get the same opportunities I did while growing up. It was unusual that I got the opportunity to try my hand at anything I wanted. It was lucky the boys' teams I joined had supportive and open-minded coaches, children and parents. That's usually not the way it works. Sexism might be waning slightly, but it certainly still is present and visible when considering sports.

Stereotypes associated with women in sports create a hostile environment. Girls have to break social norms and be subjected to scrutiny

to be involved in many of the more "boyish" sports. Because of lack of interest, there might be fewer opportunities for girls to get involved with sports even if they want to. Fewer opportunities perpetuate the idea that girls don't have a place in sports. These ideas mean NBA players earn out-earn WNBA players by 200 to one, according to a May 2012 USA Today article. These ideas kept the stands of my high school basketball games empty and those of our male counterparts filled to the brim.

Anyone who says sexism is a thing of the past has never been to a women's basketball or softball game. Sports should not be dismissed as forms of sexism, but should be observed as a model of the way society regards women and men. A society willing to pay hundreds of dollars to watch a men's football game obviously has some opinions about the status of men in society. Athletic prowess is characteristic of a strong male, but somehow it is not admirable when seen in women. Male athletes are adored and deified to a ridiculous extent while female athletes are barely recognized. When women are considered, it is with a small shrug and the thought, "She's good, I guess, for a girl."

Brittney Griner, a star basketball player for Baylor University, for example, is one of the best female players ever to play college basketball. This isn't what you hear about,

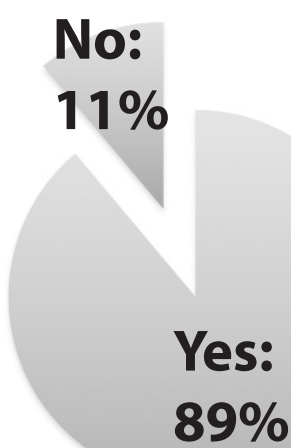
though. Instead, she is criticized for being "manly" by sexist fans. An amazing athlete, who would be looked upon with awe if a man, is instead subjected to discriminatory criticism because she is a woman. This blatant sexism aside, there are undertones even in the language of sports. Everything positive is related to masculinity. You want to be physically strong and emotionally tough, traits seen as positive for men but unladylike for women.

I didn't know about this type of discrimination until later during my life and for that I'm lucky. I got to have fun the way I wanted to and define myself as an athlete without scrutiny. That opportunity should be given to every girl the way it is given to every boy. Also, boys shouldn't feel the need to define themselves as athletes just to stick to the status quo either. More opportunities increase interest and thus more understanding about the way women too can be strong, tough and entertaining. Until the stigma about athleticism disappears, sexism will stay alive and well, thinly veiled by the excuse that the men's game is just more fun to watch.

Mackenzie McDermott is a freshman English major from Springfield, Ill.

Web Poll

Do you support the implementation of a gender-neutral housing option at Truman State?



Out 18 of votes.

INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909
Staff

Editor-in-Chief Kathleen Barbosa
Managing Editor John O'Brien
Assistant News Editors Paige Yungermann
Features Editor Emily Battmer
Assistant Features Editor Anna Grace
Sports Editor Sam Sherman
Assistant Sports Editor David Lemon
Opinions Editor Robert Overmann
Copy Chief Ashley Wolf
Assistant Copy Chief Andrea Trierweiler
Multimedia Editor Kate Linman
Design Chief Carly Robison
Advertising Manager Adam Antor
Business Manager Ashley Thomas
News Staff Dan Romine, Natasha McCallister, Bethany Boyle, Dan Mika, Danielle Waldron, Connor Stangler, Andi Watkins Davis
Features Staff Chris Brown, Emily Wichmer, Anna Selle, Justin Gunterman, Kasie Garcia
Sports Staff Kirk Schlueter, Cory Weekes, Jonathan Rembold, Holly Cantalupo, Tyler Poe
Cartoonist Megan Archer
Copy Editors Hanna Bilinski, Emily Haynes, Kirk Schlueter, Allison Bearly, Kati Austin, Rachelle Wales, Lacy Murphy, Emily Brennan, Alex Reiser
Designers Rachel Finney, Henry Smith, Laura Miller
Photographers Sam Gorden, Calli Lowry, Adam Antor, Sarah-Wonder Agbehia, Amanda Atwell
Distribution Colleen Prendergast, Molly Bybee, Ashley Wolf
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 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. They must be submitted by email to index.opinionseditor@gmail.com or on our website at <http://tmn.truman.edu/theindex>. Include the words "letter to the editor" in the subject line of the e-mail. The Index does not publish anonymous letters to the editor. 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.