

EDITORIAL

Corrections

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Letter to the Editor

Great stuff, features writer, Grace, TSU Music Faculty, Jones, and TSU Study Abroad real worker deputy, Craig, not to omit photo op student Rock Beneficiary Viekier, in the visit report from my native Britain, Liverpool orientated, February 7. But many of the statements reported therein show, by their lingering native American insularity, the U.S. oh, so white male, insistence on your seeing us through your U.S. eyes alone, show that it is still a valid critique of TSU Study Abroad overall de facto programs part-time only administered. That these, very expensive, programs are not fully delivering. That they offer, only, superficiality. And not enough home country-grown faculty who really do love, if critically, so, the 96 percent of our planet population not American, and who are proud of us. If, indeed, TSU is ever to get real "liberal arts" depth you last month editorially craved, Study Abroad Director Monsieur Lecaque, lot must be revamped pronto, Dr. Paino, as your president predecessors well, lazily, knew. Officially, indeed Lecaque is listed as paid mainly as, yes, a French professor, but he teaches barely a fraction of the expectation thrown, thus, over-borne on his colleagues. And, now, he seems to have added an Art course, despite lacking a U.S. accredited subject Ph.D. or recent, even, survey course teaching in the last discipline.

Let me illustrate from Grace's report, precisely the evidently uninformed howlers, that will not, just, be obvious to people like me who was an official visitor and party member, book promoter as recently as the Liverpool 2011 national UK Labour Party conference.

Viekier states, he went to Liverpool seeing not only the Beatles native venues but too one of "David Bowie's". Sure you did, but let's not be superficial to my land's own vastly complex, and often awful class, regional differences. Two of the Beatles most originally composers, actually, came from outer suburban Merseyside and went

to school still mainly beyond income catch of most real working class, genuine Liverpuddlians too! While Bowie is like, me very South and Estuary Londen-Kent in roots, meaning as his very entrepreneurial career demonstrates he could, and has mainly, avoided inner UK city concerts, as well as always been near London advantaged recording studios. Of course, too, TSU Academic Advisor Viekier's own cited paper, The Doors, is not only about a U.S. group. But like the early Beatles they had to rely on German, Baltic live concerts for even basic start music sustenance. A fact, non-nationalistically. Professor Jones ought to face up to, before as confidently calling "live concerts" exemplification of something, he, monolithically, labels "British culture."

So a great story for the existing TSU Study Abroad status quo. But one like 2013 the TSU place as a whole cries out for both more critical analysis improvingly, if perforce, pedantically, discursively. My advice, meantime, though, until Paino and co get their fresh broom reforming act together is this. For half the current dough, the average TSU student or we Kirksville surround residents, could mount a better, more genuine foreign-based overseas expert educational trip to the real country abroad than they are superficially only being now given presently. Value and quality for hard-saved real dough, please Troy Paino and fellow would-be travelers. Or, as my own preferred real worker band from Merseyside, Gerry and the Pacemakers, once put it "Let's Ferry Across the Mersey," the authentic European one musically.

Larry Iles
Kirksville resident



Motherhood should not be defined by gender



Lacy Murphy

Mothering is an art form. The role of the mother is so important throughout American society we have devoted an entire day to celebrating our moms. Last week, I attended a couple sessions of the (Un)Gendering Motherhood Conference. The last session I went to involved a reading of a musical written by David Charles Goyette, a Truman State assistant theatre professor. The musical, entitled "Surrogates," portrays the journey of a homosexual couple, Gerald and Hubert, pursuing surrogacy to have children to whom they are biologically connected. Initially the couple approaches Gerald's sister to serve as the surrogate, but she has reservations about their pursuit of parenthood. She feels a child needs a mother — someone who can provide "motherly love." But who is a mother? Why can't men fulfill this role?

First we must define the characteristics of a mother. Everyone's definition is probably a little different, but some characteristics traditionally associated with a mother are empathy, patience, strength, affection, selflessness and unconditional love. It goes without saying that the traditional view of a mother is as a woman. It's time for this role to cease to be so narrowly defined. There is no reason to deny the possibility that men could provide all these qualities.

One can look to gender equality issues for more insight. Women are constantly fighting for equal treatment. They want to be recognized as social, educational and financial equals of men with the ability to think with rationale and logic and provide financial stability for the family. Essentially, women want to demonstrate that they have all the same desirable qualities as men and can fulfill the role of the traditional father.



Cartoon by Megan Archer

Men in homosexual relationships pursuing surrogacy are fighting for the converse. They want people to recognize that men can fulfill the role of a mother and therefore provide a holistic family atmosphere. However, it seems the general population is more willing to recognize the multidimensionality of women and not men.

It could be argued men and women are fundamentally different because they are biologically motivated by different things. It is not a stretch to say men and women possibly could be more effective in different situations. For example, a man might have difficulty understanding the needs of a teenage girl. However, while a man might not deal perfectly with this situation, that does not make the situation itself wrong. A child is often aware of the possible limitations

of their parent and can seek guidance from other sources.

Good parenting is an abstract concept anyway. Who gets to decide what qualities make a good parent? So many restrictions are placed on men and women who cannot have a child naturally. Adoption and surrogacy are two of the only options for people who cannot get pregnant naturally and everyone wants to step in and give their two cents about the requirements for these couples and individuals. We have no way of enforcing these restrictions on people who have children naturally. It would be absurd to confiscate children from their parents just because they don't look like good parents on paper and with no other evidence. I am not advocating for looser restrictions during the adoption process, but pointing out the

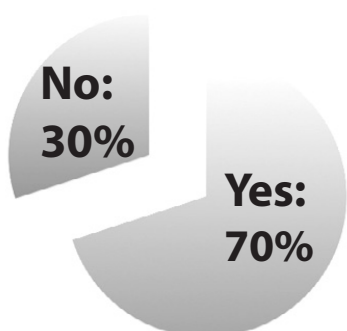
hypocrisy of these situations.

The rise of the non-traditional family is occurring across America and it's time for people to recognize this change. Two men or two women are just as capable as a man and a woman of providing a comfortable, enriching and holistic family environment. It's time to stop identifying the word mother with woman and father with man. We already are seeing men and women demonstrate they are capable of fully providing for a child. While it might not be what society considers to be a traditional family situation — if that even exists — it certainly does not make it wrong.

Lacy Murphy is a junior French major from Springfield, Mo.

Web Poll

Do you agree with the U.S. Post Office's decision to eliminate Saturday mail delivery to cut costs?



Out of 30 votes.

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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 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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