

Our View

Community benefits from local commerce

Although we only are separated by a few blocks, the distance between the Truman State campus and the Kirksville downtown community can often make it feel as if the two communities are worlds apart.

We applaud the efforts of Truman's President Troy Paino, A.T. Still University President, Craig Phelps, and the Kirksville Downtown Improvement Committee. These three will be meeting to find ways for the campuses and community to collaborate to benefit downtown businesses and students' experience in Kirksville.

We are one community. What happens on campus impacts Kirksville and vice versa. We depend on the businesses downtown to provide us with entertainment, shopping opportunities and a place to escape from college stressors. They rely on our patronage and business. This is a mutually beneficial relationship. The stores need and appreciate our business because it helps them stay afloat, and we like having the variety of shops and restaurants to choose from.

So let's all do our part. Students, let's make a conscious effort to eat out in Kirksville instead of driving out of town and to browse the shops downtown instead of shopping elsewhere. Let's give gift cards and incentives to buy from these shops when our clubs and organizations give out awards.

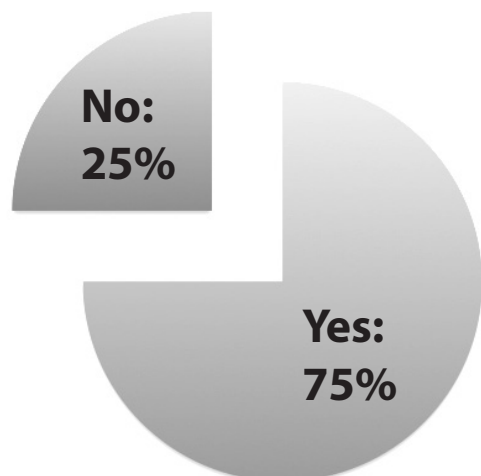
For the downtown shops, thank you for those of you who offer student discounts, and give us other perks to shop at your businesses. We realize that every "freebie" item given away is a cut into profits, but for us college students who tend to be short on money, a free soda or a few dollars off of a purchase can give your business a leg up on the competition.

An improved relationship between students and the downtown community will result in an improved quality of life for all involved.

Students, next time you find yourself ordering a product online, ask yourself whether you could be spending the money locally. Downtown businesses, we're all looking for a little more excitement in Kirksville, but our options are limited. Embrace your community and we all will benefit.

Web Poll

Do you believe graduate school to be a good life investment?



Out of 16 votes.

INDEX

Serving the University community since 1909

Staff

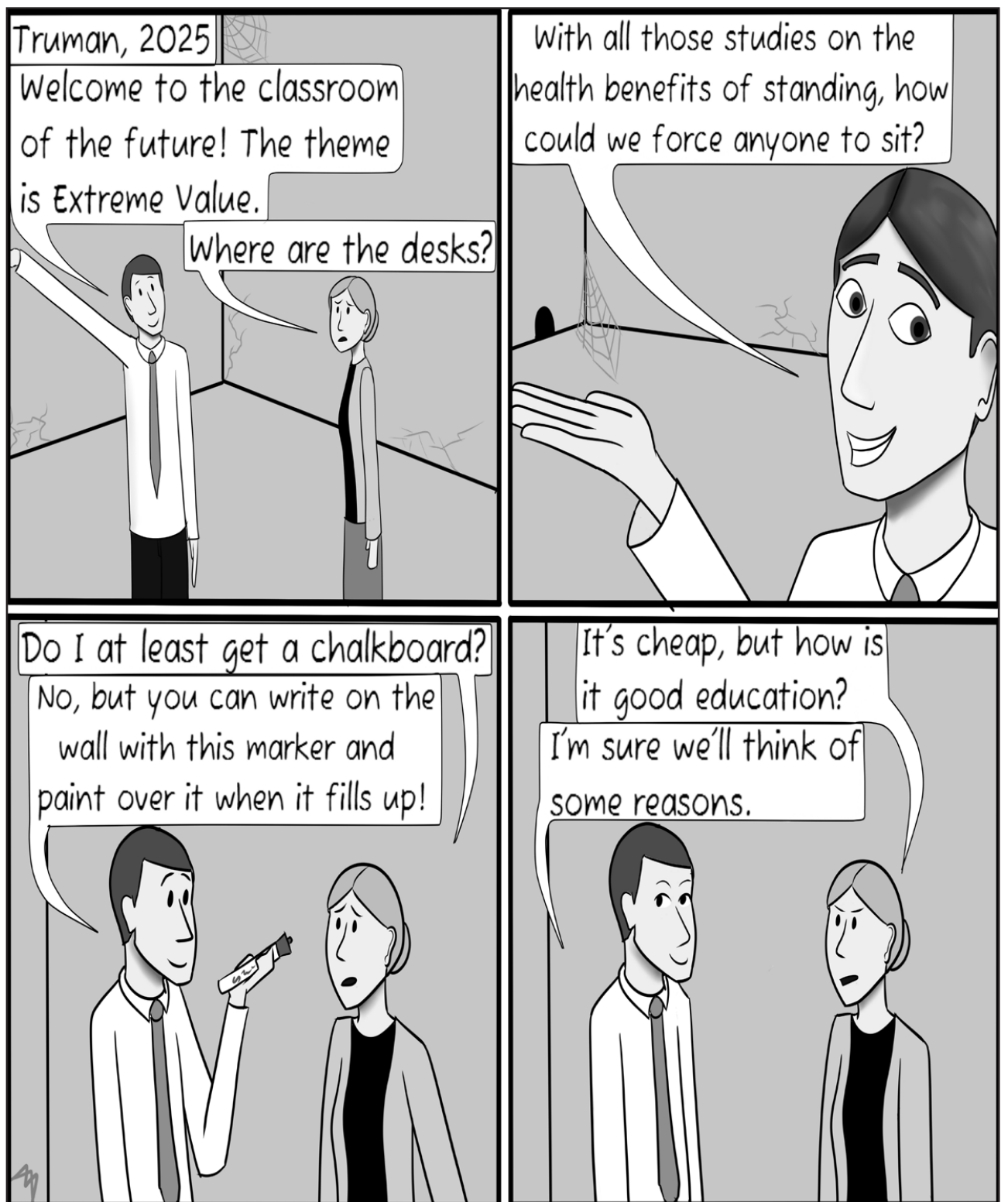
Editor-in-Chief Kathleen Barbosa
Managing Editor John O'Brien
News Editor Ashley Jost
Assistant News Editors Andi Watkins Davis, Paige Yungermann, Danielle Waldron
Features Editor Emily Battmer
Assistant Features Editor Anna Grace
Sports Editor Sam Sherman
Assistant Sports Editor David Lemon
Opinions Editor Bob Overmann
Photography Editor Sam Gorden
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, Rose McCray, Dan Romine, Sarah-Wonder Agbehia, Dan Mika
Features Staff Chris Brown, Emily Wichmer, Anna Grace, Danielle Breshears, Chelsie Yokum, Sarah Muir
Sports Staff Kirk Schlueter, Cory Weekes, Tyler Poe
Cartoonist Megan Archer
Photographers Sam Gorden, Calli Lowry, Rose Sparks
Copy Editors Hanna Bilinski, Lacy Murphy, Kirk Schlueter, Allison Bearly, Emily Haynes, Emily Brennan, Rachelle Wales
Design Chief Carly Robison
Distribution Molly Bybee, Ashley Wolf
Adviser Don Krause

Corrections

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



Students should venture off the path



Connor Stangler

I graduate in four months, and I think I want to change my major.

For four years I superficially have studied history and English, learning just enough substance to fake competence and just enough random facts to convince cocktail party strangers of my credentials. Soon, graduate school will expose my incompetence and I'll probably never even attend a cocktail party. The worst part, however, is senior regret. After seven semesters of procrastination, I finally enrolled in a fine arts class — Survey of Art History, Renaissance to the Present.

And I'm in love. And I want you to be, too.

It's a pretty pathetic complaint. I'm going to graduate from one of the best liberal arts schools in the nation with, if not the appropriate training for a professional career, than at least broadened horizons and an eternal curiosity. I've formed unforgettable relationships with students and

teachers and forced myself to dip a tentative toe into the murky depths of adulthood.

Nevertheless, the pain of lost opportunity was real and sharp during the first day of art class. The first few pictures of vaguely familiar statues and paintings tugged at my heartstrings. The tugs were enough to convince me that if I had been an eager freshman rather than a jaded senior, I would have added an art history major or minor.

The realization was both an opening and a closing. I was suddenly exposed to a world which previously was just been a fuzzy outline, and one I discovered and re-discovered in art museums. I usually faked appreciation for these masterful works. Standing alongside groups of elementary students on field trips, I would pretend to consider the color, subject, and medium of the work but really just marvel at how pretty the thing was. Suddenly, this class revealed a world of vocabulary and secret significance. Embedded in works were symbolism, meaning, illusion and message. My eyes, previously shut, were opened.

I also was more sensitive to how closed I am. I don't for a second regret choosing my majors. However, even while completing the liberal arts requirements that pushed me to and past the edge of my abilities, I stayed close to home. I ventured into a few other disciplines, but the detours were brief and still related to my central fields. I was academically local, and the art class is the transformative trip

to the foreign city.

There's an argument to be made for learning a single subject as thoroughly as you can. It is rewarding. Concentration can prepare you for a career, enhance your professional credentials, and help you rise above the competition. Unplanned ventures into unfamiliar fields are riskier but yield perhaps greater rewards. If you are a student used to the methodological standards of math, art and English can flex your mind in ways that challenge the core of your worldview. If you are a humanities student who prefers the supple arts instead of the rigid sciences, the mechanics and logic of the latter are surprisingly refreshing.

The point is that I fell in love, you can too, and Truman should be fostering these kinds of affairs. Even if you complete your history, math, or science requirements in high school, Truman should strongly encourage, or even require, that you take more courses outside your field. Statistics should partner with English, accounting with music, and biology with philosophy. After four years of historical textbooks and novels, visual images feel physically welcome. I realize now what I've been missing. Experiment early and often, and explore the universe of eligible academic bachelors, or suffer the regret.

Connor Stangler is a senior English and history major from Columbia, Mo.

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 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.