

## Basketball fans gather for watch party



Sophomore Sam Blonstein watches the NCAA basketball tournament during a watch party Tuesday in the Student Union Building HUB. Free food was provided to all attendees at the party.

Adam Antor/Index

# Failure has a value



Staff reporter argues that our mistakes teach us grace, humility and other virtues

BY EMILY WICHMER  
Staff Reporter

Failure often is perceived as a bad thing. Calling someone a failure is seen as the equivalent of telling them they are worthless. Although failure has negative connotations throughout our society, there are good things that can come from failure.

Everyone strives for success. We all want to be the best runner, the best student, the best swimmer or the best employee. When we make a mistake, we often jump to the conclusion that our mistake will ruin our chances of becoming the best.

While we won't succeed if don't aim for success, we shouldn't be upset when we do fail. Through failure, there are many valuable things that come to us, if only we can stop to appreciate them.

Failure teaches us grace. No one succeeds at everything he or she does. We all make mistakes. The more we make those mistakes, the more likely we are to realize the lessons we can learn from failure.

Mistakes can make us humble. Too much success can go to our heads and make us cocky about our abilities. Failure helps serve as a reminder to us that we are human and we all make mistakes.

It makes us more appreciative of success when it does occur. That feeling of pride and accomplishment we get when we succeed wouldn't feel as good if we always succeeded. Knowing we could have failed, but didn't, makes success so much sweeter.

Failure allows us to learn from our mistakes. We can analyze what went wrong and what kept us from achieving our goal.

For example, during my public speaking course, each student had to give an impromptu speech at the beginning of the semester. The professor assigned each student a separate topic when they went up to speak.

When it was my turn, I walked up to the podium, introduced myself and forgot everything I had ever known about the topic the professor gave me. I stood at the podium for three of the longest minutes of my life, stuttering and desperately trying to create a coherent sentence.

I made eye contact with the teacher, and got more nervous. I was horribly embarrassed, but I realized I could use the experience to correct my mistakes for my next speech.

The next speech I gave, I focused on the clock at the back of the room, and I was much less nervous.

Failure shouldn't be something to be ashamed of. Everyone makes mistakes. In fact, mistakes are natural and can help us appreciate success and learn how to achieve it in the future.

# "Never give up" can be seen as poor advice



Editor argues giving up occasionally is as necessary as it is beneficial

BY EMILY BATTMER

Features Editor  
featureseditor.index@gmail.com

"Never give up."

It is a phrase that has been preached to us again and again. We have heard it a million times. From the multiplication tables we struggled with during second grade to the pitches we could never quite hit at baseball practice, the adults in our lives have consoled and encour-

aged us with the same three little words since day one.

Never give up. I'm going to go out on a limb and say sometimes, it's OK to give up.

Giving up one thing might give you the opportunity to try something new. Giving up and confiding in someone about something you've been dealing with alone can take the weight of the world off your shoulders. Opening your mind and giving up certain preconceptions or ideas might make room for a world of new experiences and perspectives. Knowing when to say "I give up" after you've done your best is a struggle many Truman State students share.

Many of us are perfectionists — nothing is ever finished until it is just right. I am one of those people. I used to turn English papers in on time but ask for extensions so I could tweak one last detail or add that final touch. I spent many sleepless nights memorizing test materials or piano pieces, not allowing myself to go to bed until I knew it all by heart — and often found my efforts were in vain when I couldn't score 100 percent on that big test or missed a note during my performance.

I've since learned to cut myself some slack, but I still find myself erasing the dates at the top of my notes and rewriting them so the numbers look sharp

and clean.

The truth is, if we never gave up on anything, we would never get anything done. I could rewrite this article 10,000 times and still find things I'd like to change after it went to print.

Fortunately for me, I have a deadline to meet and I won't be able to spend the next three weeks obsessing about word choice and sentence structure. Giving up is as necessary as it is inevitable, and we shouldn't beat ourselves up when it happens.

Sometimes, it even has its perks. Giving up a bad habit, like smoking cigarettes or drinking soda, can have a positive effect on your health. Giving up old possessions can create more space in your closet and less hardship for someone else. And giving up on an assignment after you know you've done everything you can means more time for sleep and less stress in your life.

I dare you to give up for a day. Give up wearing makeup and see how comfortable you are in your own skin. Give up red meat, just to try something new. Give up sitting with the same people you always sit with in the dining hall and see who else you meet.

It's important to have confidence, to work hard and persevere. But it's also important to know when to take a step back, let go and give up.

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8

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