

EDITORIAL

Our View

Fee should benefit all students

As students of Truman State, each of us pays a \$50 per semester athletic fee. This fee primarily is used for the upkeep of athletic facilities, many of which are unavailable for general use. This year, however, a portion of the funds generated from this fee has been earmarked for turf resurfacing at Stokes Stadium. We applaud this usage of these funds. If all Truman students are required to pay this fee, we should all benefit.

Not all Truman students are involved with athletic teams. Many are not interested in organized sports whatsoever. Those students might be understandably upset because they don't perceive any tangible benefit to themselves resulting from this athletic fee.

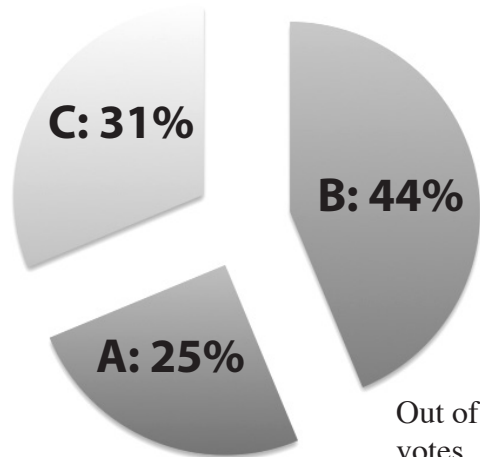
Stokes Stadium hosts Truman Week events and students enrolled in health courses use the facility. Students run on the track for exercise. This facility is available to all students, regardless of participation in organized athletics at Truman.

Furthermore, this upgrade to the turf at Stokes will improve the University's image. Prospective students will appreciate the well-kept facilities. Athletes from other universities will respect the well-maintained field at Stokes, which is likely the majority of the University that they will see while visiting.

The allocation of these athletic fee funds for turf resurfacing at Stokes is a responsible usage of the funds. As college students, we know funds are limited. So, let's make the most of them by spending them in a fashion that is most beneficial to the University and the student body.

Web Poll

Should certain voting districts be required to get federal permission before changing their voting procedures, as outlined by the Voting Rights Act of 1965?



A. Yes, all districts should be required to get federal permission before changing their voting procedures.

B. Yes, the law should remain as is.

C. No, it's discriminatory to force some districts and not others to get federal permission before changing their procedures.

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Corrections

The "Students travel to state capital" story on page 1 of last week's Index incorrectly stated that Sheila Solon (D-31) is a former member of the Missouri House of Representatives. She is actually a sitting member of the Missouri House of Representatives.

On page 7 of last week's Index, the individual in the main photo and one of the individuals in the photo below was incorrectly identified as Cara Tom. She actually is Milite Abraha.

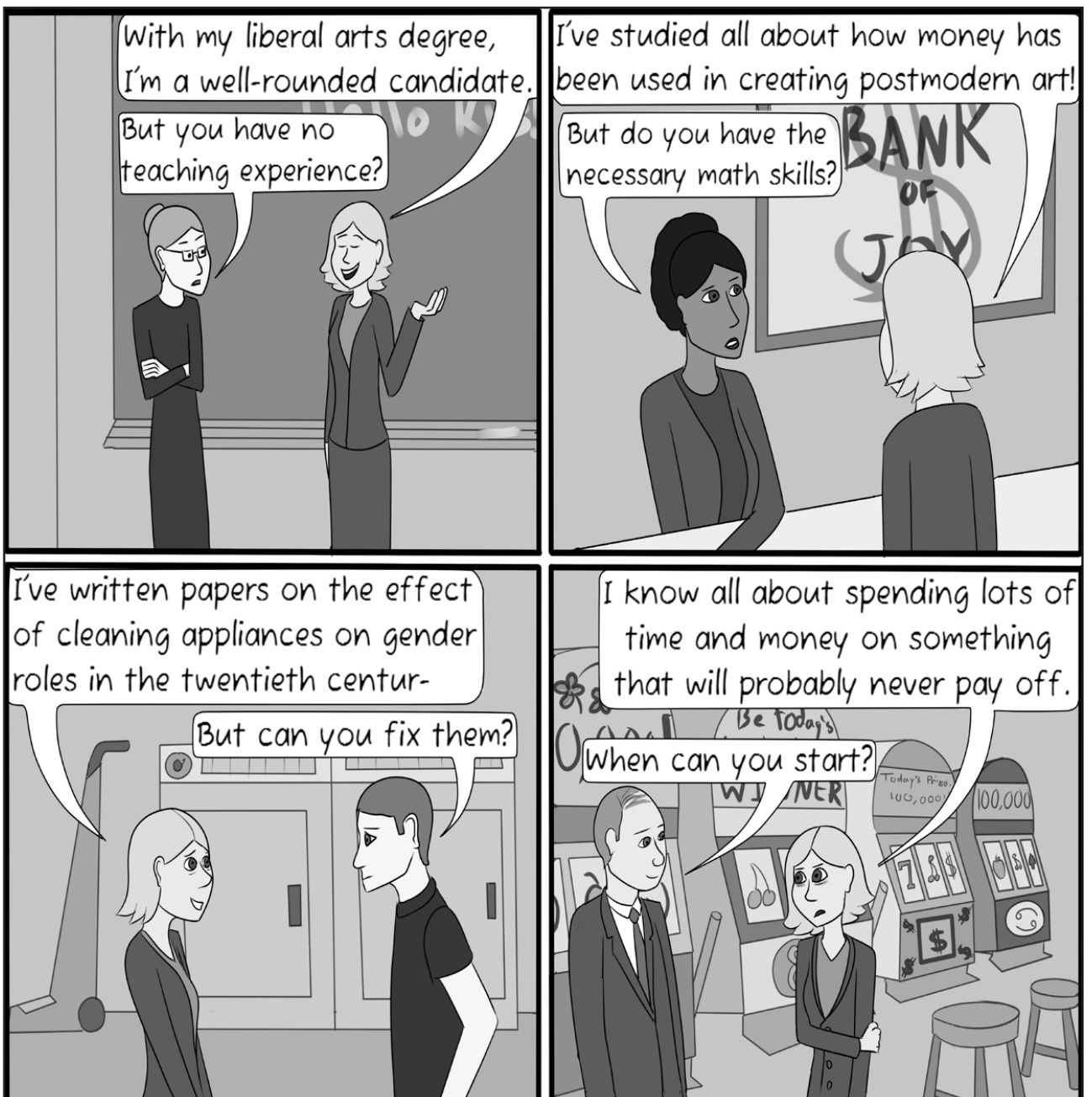
On page 14 of last week's Index, the individual in the baseball photo was incorrectly identified as Taylor Brooks.

The "Nixon allows funding distribution" story on page 1 of last week's Index stated that Truman State received \$400,000 of \$8.4 million, then later stated Truman received 1 percent of \$8.4 million, which is \$84,000. Truman received \$400,000, not \$84,000.

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



Liberal arts education offers flexibility



Sarah Muir

We're Truman State students, so we're used to hearing the term "liberal arts education." We hear it from the University, we get asked about it from friends at other schools and it continues to be heard during the nation's discussion of education reform. As the Obama administration struggles with funding, jobs, competitiveness and debt during the discussion of education reform, support for liberal arts education slowly is declining. This trend is harmful for students and the United States. Because a liberal arts education teaches skills applicable to many fields, rather than skills applicable to a specific job, it is able to best serve students in a rapidly changing economy.

Numbers of liberal arts colleges throughout the U.S. have been declining. Within 20 years, the number of schools that can be designated as liberal arts schools will have dropped by a sharp 39 percent, according to an Oct. 2012 Inside Higher Ed article. The study indicates schools aren't

closing in such large numbers, but rather that many schools have revised their curriculum. These schools have shifted from the liberal arts and sciences education that was once considered the most prestigious education one could get.

This alarming trend is reflected in current politics as well. President Obama is advocating for greater focus on vocational training, as opposed to other forms of higher education, according to a Feb. 2012 Reuters article. This shifted focus isn't just for higher education, but also for high school education programs that advocate vocational training, according to the Reuters article. Obama would like to see \$2.1 billion go toward vocational and technical schools, according to the Reuters article.

Politicians promise lower unemployment rates and increased education all individuals if we focus on technical and vocational training. They claim we can put America on top of educational worldwide rankings if only we provide more practical education. My personal favorite cliché about technical education is that these programs will teach workers the skills businesses are looking for. Is education reform that favors vocational and technical programs really the magic bullet to our educational problems?

Nope. In fact, it might worsen U.S. educational problems.

What about teaching the skills businesses are looking for? That sounds like a solid plan to increase employment, except that it's empty rhetoric. Businesses are not search-

ing for a single skill set that can be learned at vocational school. If only there was a form of education that favored abstract and critical thinking that nearly every employer desires in its employees.

Vocational skills lack adaptability. Skills taught by technical and vocational schools are job-specific, according to a Nov. 2012 Forbes article. These skills apply exclusively to jobs that eventually will be moved out of the country or replaced with more efficient methods, according to the Forbes article. The potential consequences are devastating — if we train a large percentage of our generation with these skills, then suddenly their jobs are outsourced, and we're left with a segment of our population with no marketable skill set. This is strikingly similar to the problem we currently are facing with the decrease of manufacturing jobs.

Liberal arts education doesn't experience these problems. It provides an adaptable form of education that can be applied to nearly all fields.

Truman has stood strong when it comes to its liberal arts and sciences curriculum. They've made adjustments to better serve students, but have never revised the curriculum to the point of eliminating the core mission of liberal arts. Truman provides an adaptable education that can take us anywhere, no matter what tomorrow's economy looks like.

Sarah Muir is a freshman political science major from Lee's Summit, 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 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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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.

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