

# EDITORIAL

## Our View

### Rebellious spirit necessary for social change

Our nation's founding fathers — Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington and many others — are icons, in part, because of their rebellious spirit. They defied King George during a time period when the sun never set on the British Empire, and a fledgling nation emerged during a seemingly hopeless struggle against the most powerful entity on Earth. They saw injustice and stood up for themselves and their country — even in the face of death. As our founding fathers knew, social and political change cannot occur without the rebellious spirit.

Complicity doesn't get documented in the history books. Unfair and oppressive policies aren't changed without some degree of rebellion.

Unfortunately, this rebellious spirit is no longer revered. Those pushing for gay rights often are seen as radicals and supporters of drug policy reform are afraid to speak out for being labeled lowlifes and criminals. The hipster rejecting "mainstream" culture is ridiculed for his alternative lifestyle. As the saying goes, the nail that sticks out gets hammered down.

That being said, pick your battles.

We've all wanted at some point in our lives to "stick it to the man." Maybe there was a good reason behind it, or maybe you just wanted to defy authority. However, obeying authority and cooperation are also necessary for prosperity and to work for a greater good. As with nearly everything in life, a balance is necessary.

Yes, we all must cooperate sometimes, but there's nothing wrong with a rebellious spirit. Social injustice never will be righted without a rebellious spirit and it's up to each of us to stand up for others and ourselves where we see fit — our country depends on it.

Find your cause and go after it.

## Corrections

Last week's "Local groups work to feed the hungry" story on page two incorrectly stated that individuals could receive as much food as they could carry. The food bank instead aims to provide 26-28 pounds of food per person, per month.

Last week's "Local groups work to feed the hungry" story on page two incorrectly stated that Adair County food bank volunteers logged 80,000 hours. 80,000 volunteer hours were logged by food bank volunteers throughout the 32 Missouri counties, not just Adair County.

Last week's "Local groups work to feed the hungry" story on page two incorrectly stated that 20,000 pounds of food were distributed to public pantries. Instead, more than 28 million pounds of food were distributed to 132 of the food bank's partner agencies and 128 elementary schools last year.

Last week's "Local groups work to feed the hungry" story on page two incorrectly spelled Mike DeSantis's name as "Mike DiSantis." Also, there is no Adair County Food Bank, rather the organization is "The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri."

Last week's page 16 sports calendar incorrectly reported that both Nov. 28 basketball games were away games, when they actually were home games.

Last week's page 16 sports calendar incorrectly reported that the Nov. 19 men's basketball game was at home, rather than in Moberly. Also, the Nov. 23 and Nov. 24 women's basketball games were in Jefferson City rather than in St. Joseph or St. Louis.

Last week's page 16 sports calendar incorrectly reported that the women's basketball team played Nov. 28 in Kansas City, when the game actually was a home game.

Last week's "Football ends its last season in the MIAA" on page 15 incorrectly referred to the Great Lakes Valley Conference as the "Grand Lakes Valley Conference."

Last week's "Film screening raises awareness" story on page 13 incorrectly named Marissa Fabbri as "Melissa Fabbri."

To submit corrections or to contact the editor, please email [index.editor@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Letters to the Editor

### Christians support LGBT community

This letter is a Christian response to Garrett Kelsey's Nov. 15 column on homosexuality and the Bible. Kelsey painted a picture of his opposition, which almost no Christians believe.

As Kelsey points out, the Bible considers homosexuality a sin (the biblical term for disobedience toward God). The Bible says these acts are unnatural (Romans 1) and defy the institution of marriage that God set up between man and woman (Genesis 1, Ephesians 5).

However, Kelsey is incorrect in stating that following the Bible to the letter compels Christians to condemn members of the LGBT community to death. This statement is in fact the opposite of what Christians believe. As a Christian, I love LGBTs. I hope they — and everyone else — will find life.

Most people agree that sin leads to negative consequences. For example, getting drunk could lead to a hangover, an accident, or death. But the Bible is brutally honest about sin, saying "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). By "death" the Bible means something like "eternal separation from God." This separation occurs because God is perfect in every way and cannot have anything to do with imperfection or sin. Old Testament, physical punishments for sin (like those in Leviticus) demonstrated the spiritual truth that sin leads to death.

However, these physical punishments were not God's final word on sin, and today they have expired (Ephesians 2). Because God loved us and wanted us to live, God became a man

in the historical person of Jesus Christ. He lived the perfect life we could not live, died the painful death for sin we should have died, and then rose again in victory — so that we might live in Him (Hebrews 4:15; Isaiah 53:5, Romans 5:8; 8:11).

Biblically, homosexuality is on the same plane as all other sins. All sins separate us from God, and we all deserve death because of them. But God is so gracious and so loving that He made a way for us to have life by coming to die Himself. Through the cross of Jesus Christ, every sin has been put to death — including homosexuality. Through His resurrection, everyone who believes on Him can live. Though we will still make mistakes, in God's eyes we are made perfect because of Jesus (2 Cor. 5:21). No matter what the sin — homosexuality, pornography, pride, gossip, or anything else — God can free you and give you life.

I only quoted half a verse earlier: Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

So I don't want LGBTs to die. I want them to live. So do other Christians. So does the Bible. And most importantly — so does God. God loves us. God wants to give us life through Jesus Christ. God wants to free us from our sins. He wants us to live forever in perfection with Him. That's offered to anyone who will believe in Jesus.

Zach Vicars  
Truman State senior

### Domestic partners deserve equal benefits

Two years ago, the Student Senate passed a resolution encouraging the university to extend employee benefits to domestic partners. As President, I vetoed it. While I made my fair share of mistakes during my presidency, vetoing this resolution ranks as one of the most prodigious. I applaud the efforts and courage of President Aaron Malin for relentlessly pushing this issue regardless of the political and social pressures. Domestic partner benefits are an issue of equality that should not be subject to the latest populist winds.

As a university, Truman prides itself on academic excellence and lead-

ing its peer institutions on a number of issues. Yet we've refused to take the lead on issues of equality and civil rights, and instead chosen to wait for someone to follow. While sitting idle is certainly the easy thing to do in the near future; it will hinder the university in the long run. In order to maintain our high academic standards and reputation, the university must seek to attract the best and brightest faculty. Our business model makes competing dollar for dollar difficult, so we cannot afford to give up any other potential competitive edge.

From the time Dr. Paino became President of the university he's made the future of the university the center of how he makes decisions. One

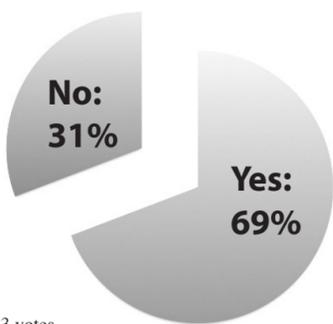
needs to look no further than his inauguration speech to understand this. If we are truly to make the case that short-term turbulence for the sake of long-term stability is acceptable when required, then we can no longer turn a blind eye to the issue of domestic partner benefits.

I strongly encourage President Paino and the Board of Governors to not make the same mistake I did by rejecting a motion to provide domestic partner benefits to university employees for political, social, or any other reason. The time to move forward is now!

Isaac Robinson  
Truman State alumnus

## Web Poll

Should humanities education receive the same funding as sciences education?



\*out of 13 votes

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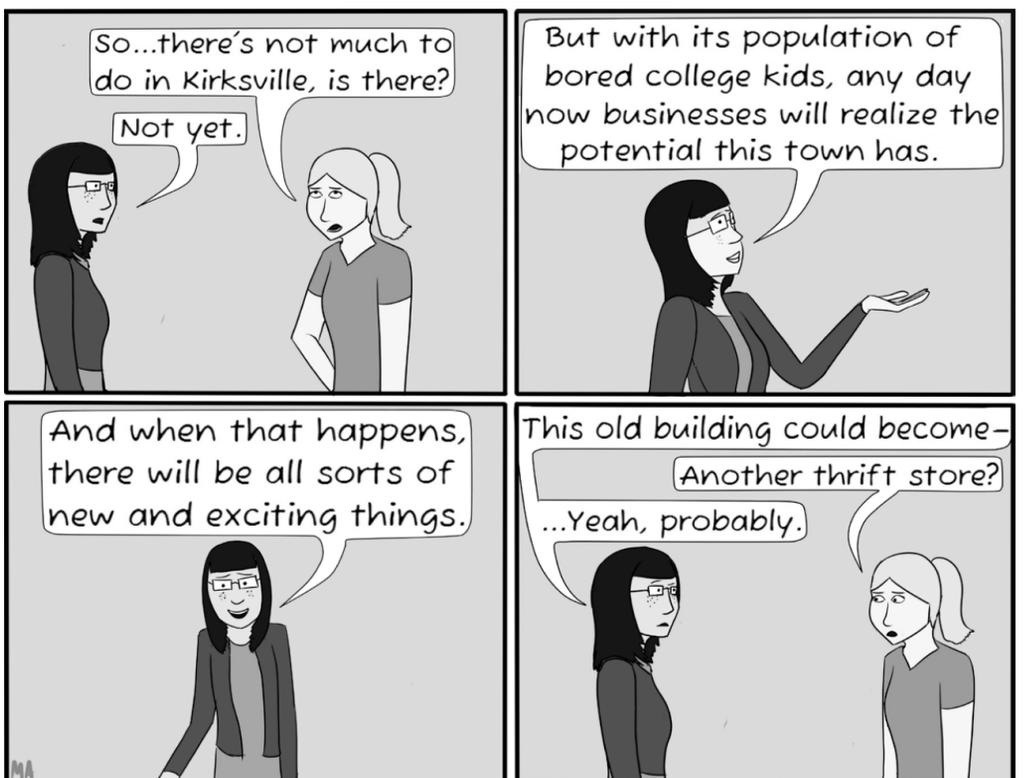
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## Cartoon

By Megan Archer



### 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](mailto:index.opinionseditor@gmail.com) or on our website at [www.trumanindex.com](http://www.trumanindex.com). 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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