

EDITORIAL

Our View

Investing in technology is practical

An investment in Truman State's information technology network is an investment in the institution's future and current students' education. As students who benefit daily from University technology, we support the Parents Council pragmatic decision to update and enhance classroom technology.

Provided the Parents Council reaches its fundraising goal, the \$75,000 will create more venues with SMART technology for professors to educate students through SMART Boards, classroom capture systems and other information technology updates. During a time when technology is becoming increasingly important to education and universities are facing growing financial restraints, this funding is vital to Truman remaining technologically competitive to larger universities. Classroom capture allows students to review lectures online. With SMART Boards, professors are better able to highlight important concepts for visual learners.

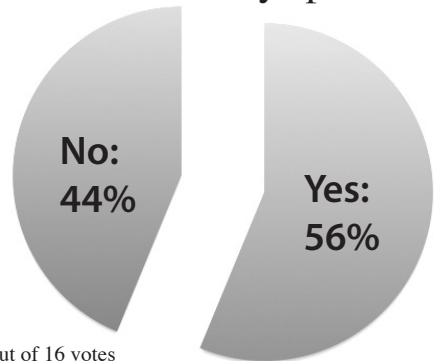
While we're sure many of our readers are upset that the fountain won't undergo renovations via funding from the Parents Council this year, it's important to keep in mind the campus fountain is cosmetic. We pay to attend a university to receive a college education. We love Truman's beautiful campus and would love to see the fountain permanently fixed, but aesthetic concerns must be secondary.

The issue here is about priorities. A healthy information technology network is vital to a university. Many of us are taught in classrooms equipped with SMART Boards and projectors. The campus fountain has little bearing on our lives with the exception of eliciting exclamations of "Ooh, look. The fountain's running today!"

The University's information technology system allows us students to get the most from our higher education dollars. Until higher education receives its much-needed funding boost, we're perfectly fine with the campus fountain being run with a garden hose.

Web Poll

Are you satisfied with author Ben Mezrich as the fall University speaker?



*out of 16 votes

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
 After reading your op-ed on the trip made to Kirksville by the entire statewide Democrat ticket this past week, I felt that I would be remiss if I did not respond. In the column, you imply that only Democrats have ventured up to Kirksville during this election cycle. I would like to point out that this assertion is false. In the last two months alone, Kirksville has been the destination for many Republican candidates, including Sam Graves on August 15 and August 22, Todd Akin on August 2, Peter Kinder on July 29, and Ed Martin on July 25. While Democrats made one big stop with all of their candidates, it is unfair to say that the Republicans

have not given the people of Kirksville an opportunity to meet them. It is also important to keep in mind that there is still a month and a half left until the election, and it would be my guess that we will be seeing Republican candidates make a number of stops in Kirksville in the coming weeks. I would also like to address the idea that recent visits by Democrat candidates are to promote democracy. While meeting the voters is certainly a result of the Democrats' visits to Kirksville, it would be naïve for you to think that this was the primary purpose of their visit. It is no secret that Kirksville is home to a number of major Democrat donors, who have given

tens of thousands of dollars to Governor Jay Nixon, Attorney General Chris Koster, Secretary of State candidate Jason Kander, and the Missouri Democratic State Committee. By taking a deeper look into the inner workings of campaigns, it looks to be clear that this trip by the Democrat ticket was only partially for the voters. More importantly to them, they visited the area to keep their major benefactors happy with the goal of raising more funds. I am not charging that the Democrats do not care about the people, but to say the trip was solely to promote democracy would be an inaccurate statement.

Andrew Schwartz

Dear Editor,

Props to Shea Carr, Truman graduate assistant football coach, for organizing the "Smoke at Stokes" barbecue on campus September 8. It was a first-class event all around. Readers may not be aware that this was not a backyard grill-off. It was an organized and certified barbecue competition sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society and Shea clearly recognized the challenge to ensure an outstanding event.

I've participated in 30 events as a certified KCBS judge, and I found "Smoke at Stokes" to have been a flawless inaugural event.

KCBS events bring attention, people, and dollars to host cities. Shea set the bar high. Hopefully, others will take on the task to make an annual event. I know I'll be looking forward to it!

Sincerely,
 John R. Meir
 Jefferson City, Mo.

Cartoon

By Megan Archer



Strike will improve education



Jeremy Busch

Education is everything in this country. In the society we live in, our education determines our life path. At the core of this institution are the hard-working, bone-aching teachers who dedicate each and every moment of nine months each year to teaching others. Teachers can be the ones who define our lives.

But when teachers in Chicago decided to abandon the classroom and take to the streets in protest, that learning experience came to a halt. About 350,000 students were left at home, according to a Sept. 13 CNN article. Instead of spending time in class, these students instead were watching TV and destroying brain cells. How can these so-called teachers leave behind their students when their social responsibility is to provide a valuable education?

Chicago teachers are paid an average of \$76,000 per year, one of the nation's highest

rates, according to a Sept. 11 USA Today article. In addition, the Chicago Teachers Union is calling for a 16 percent pay raise during the next four years. However, to understand and analyze the legitimacy of the teachers' protest, we must look at the deeper issues. The real fight is about the current system where teachers are constantly on the edge of losing their jobs while the school board focuses on its own income.

Schools can win grants by increased test scores, thanks to the Race to the Top Act founded by President Barack Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. This sounds good at first. However, this has terrible consequences to Chicago's education system because it forces the teachers to focus on test material instead of providing a full education.

When I was a senior during high school, my math teacher had a motto: "I don't care what grade you get in my class. I only care about you understanding the knowledge enough to use it when it matters." I might not have gotten the best grade in his class, but the concepts I am now able to comprehend have brought me to a whole new level in mathematics.

This thought process currently is absent from Chicago school districts, as well as other districts across the country. The teachers are mandated to teach to the tests rather than teach the material in a worldly manner. If the students do not perform to the standards of the district, a teacher's job is at risk. In fact, because of how the districts evaluates its

teachers, the jobs of 6,000 Chicago teachers are at risk within the next two years if student performance does not meet district standards, according to a Sept. 13 ABC News article. This is due to a 2010 Illinois state law requiring the implementation of a plan to measure to student improvement, according to a Sept. 12 Illinois Watchdog article. Under this plan, student growth must count for a portion — at least 25% — of a teacher's performance evaluation.

Living in constant fear of being fired, the teachers who belong to the Chicago Teachers Union decided to fight for change. They are tired of monetary gain ruling a child's education and of the school board treating students as if they are simply points on a graph. In a nation where money is power, it is inspiring to see people standing up for change. Protests are one way Americans can strive for an improved society. United as one, these teachers show that some things are worth fighting for, even if the challenge is great.

You cannot meet ends without a means. For the Chicago teachers, the means is a week of protesting to meet the ends of a fair school year. Protests are a way to change society, and I stand alongside the 30,000 teachers in their fight to better Chicago's education.

Jeremy Busch is a freshman communication major from St. Louis, 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, sports 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 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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