

EDITORIAL

Our View

Students ought to cast vote in Adair County

Students who don't have a permanent residence in Adair County, but still wish to take part in the democratic process, have two options: either change their voting address or vote via absentee ballot. For most Truman State students, we believe, changing their voting address is the wiser decision.

With the general election looming, the presidential election gets, by far, the most media attention. While voting for president and national representatives is important, state and local representatives have more impact upon one's daily life than national elections. For Truman students residing in Adair for nine months of the year, voting for Adair county representatives makes much more sense than voting for St. Louis County representatives, or wherever students might declare their permanent residence.

For those who previously lived outside the state of Missouri, absentee voting makes even less sense. Not only are these students voting for local candidates in a district they live in for only a quarter of the year, they're also wielding power over state offices that affect them significantly less than Missouri offices.

Absentee voting is perfect for those on a brief vacation or those forced away from home during the election. It's also great for those overseas in the military who can't register in a foreign country to vote in the United States. But for college students, the "home away from home" actually is the more permanent residence, at least within the span of those four years or so. For those new to Truman, trust us, Kirksville will come to feel like home. Kirksville politics and local matters will become increasingly important.

Voting, arguably, is the most important civic duty. Political apathy is apathy toward one's community and one's future. But why vote where one isn't living? One of the beauties of the American political system is each person is entitled to only one vote. Voting in Adair County, rather than where one resides during breaks away from Truman, is the wisest way to use that vote.

Corrections

- In last week's issue, Jon Stewart's name was incorrectly spelled "John Stewart" on page 5.
- In last week's issue, it was incorrectly reported on page 18 that Maggi Schutte's original injury occurred during the spring of her senior year. It actually occurred during fall.

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.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Letters, Index,

In the course of his very inflammatory comments for what he miscalls "religious liberty" in blocking female Missouri contraception rights embodied by bill SB749, my good friend, Nate Walker, Index profile, 20 September, claims his stance of obstruction finds majority doorstep support, "bipartisanly" amongst we local residents.

As a town council female Independent candidates campaign manager, I have to say as regards urban Kirksville, I have found no such change on the doorsteps that Nate knows by the hundreds he saw me canvassing and placarding, with Democrat HQ Betty poster support, for such not his or my sex's human rights to control their bodies' fertility, or not. I see only houses displaying his and Councilman Russell's candidacy posters as past "right to life" ones, too.

No real groundswell of any change, whatever, on such real personal issues, no real "fresh" though conservative globally, would want state busybody intolerance about, as fellow candidate Adkins could tell erroneous Nate.

Lastly, the great feminist, G. Greer, whom I've past myself American History TA U of Illinois once publicly debated such issues of sex with put the matters well recently this year on her native ABC Q and A panel show. The majority of young US women students need, and use, the famous "morning after pill" where their campus clinics are allowed or want to use its real freedom. Whose, Nate, or I mere males, to make it in Missouri even harder for them to exercise their sexual, let alone goddess or not, own rights bodily entitlement-wise.

Larry Iles
Kirksville resident

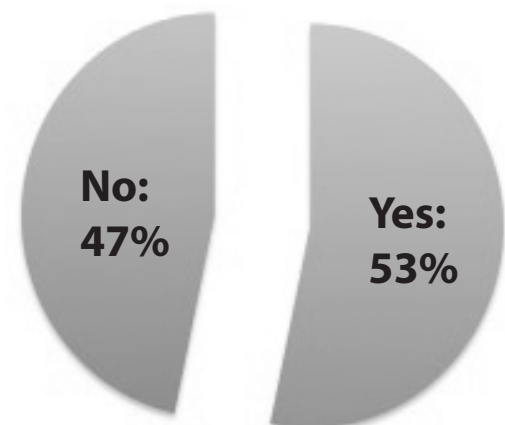
Cartoon

By Megan Archer



Web Poll

Do you think it is ethical to secretly record politicians?



*out of 15 votes

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Garrett Kelsey

Walking to class in the morning is not a simple act anymore. It is a struggle to find the safest route without being harassed by whoever has taken over the fountain area for the day. The worst of these are the religious groups, who hand you cards or get in your way specifically so you have to talk to them.

Look, I'm not the most religious individual, but I think that everyone has a right to believe in whatever they want. Faith can be an amazing thing, and some people keep it very dear to themselves. That said, there is no reason to force your beliefs on other people. If you believe in something that is a personal journey and if that makes you happy then I'm happy for you.

There are many people who camp out on campus to promote or sell some-

thing — in that regard the religious groups are not different. The difference is the way they present their message.

Most booths or tables have a sign or at most a representative. On the other side, religious groups have multiple people, folding signs and often a barker who shouts the organization's message to passerby. All that aside this isn't what upsets me.

What upsets me is what these people and their signs or cards are saying. "Where will you spend eternity?" is a common one. The phrase is forceful and threatening. It always makes me think of someone saying, "Hey stupid! Why don't you agree with me?" I once was handed a card that said, "Join God in heaven or burn in hell!" I don't feel I need to explain what's wrong with that.

The question is, why are these groups allowed to say things like this and no one else is? I never hear a student political group or a fraternity table literally shouting at random passersby. Is the reason they get away with that because they are a religious group? I think that often times people mistake religious criticism for hate speech. Usually, not always, when someone gets upset about an extremist bombing, they don't blame the religion as a whole they blame the individual group or person responsible.

Unless, of course, the religion isn't Christianity. This is an American thing, where we will shrug off the bombing of an abortion clinic as a crazy person, but label all people of the Islamic faith terrorists based on a small fraction of extremists. Why do we give religion such strange freedoms? I suppose it goes back to the founding of the country.

I don't want anyone to believe I hate the idea of religious groups having booths or tables on campus, but I think they need to respect peoples rights and beliefs as they would ask us to respect their right and beliefs. I shouldn't have to wear headphones everywhere I go just to avoid some person coming up to me and telling me why my life is in danger or how I'm sinning. If I'm interested in your group or organization I'll talk to you — you don't need to shout at me.

Imagine if, at Walmart, you were yelled at every time you went to buy groceries. You wouldn't scream reasons why were all doomed there, so why is it okay on campus? Respect and tolerance go both ways, and we deserve to be treated as such.

Garrett Kelsey is a sophomore linguistics major from O'Fallon, 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 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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