

Our View

Investing in students benefits all

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon's recent approval of increased amount awarded to Bright Flight and Access Missouri students will increase incentives to study hard throughout high school. With the decreased number of students receiving the funding, we appreciate the restraint from using this money elsewhere and respect the decision to instead increase the money individual students will receive. These programs are an investment for our future. It rewards students who earned aid and supports those students with financial need who will be most impacted by the rising cost of higher education.

Although it's a step in the right direction, funding increases should not stop here.

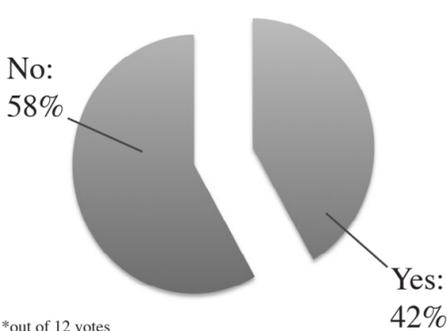
Those receiving the Bright Flight scholarship received at least a 31 ACT score — the top 3 percent of students taking the test, according to the Missouri Department of Higher Education. These students are the cream of the crop: they're motivated, hard working and driving our country forward. Our brightest students are more than deserving of the \$2000 allotted per student for the 2012-2013 academic year. This is an increase of \$250. Merit based scholarships serve students and society — students have an incentive to excel in high school, while society benefits from the resulting better educated workforce.

Access Missouri is geared toward students with financial need. We understand how important every penny is when financing an education. While 3 percent isn't substantial, any funding increase to need-based scholarships is a step in the right direction. College is incredibly expensive — those most impacted by the financial cost deserve this funding.

Nixon shouldn't stop with student aid. If he wants his legacy to be his support of Missouri education, an increase must also be made to institutional funding. Helping students finance their college is only the beginning of the battle — better funding for institutions allows those institutions to provide a better education. Institutional funding also outlasts individual funding — it can be used for upgrading facilities, paying faculty and financing institutional scholarships. Education is an investment worth investing in.

Web Poll

Does a political candidate visiting Truman influence your vote?



INDEX

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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.

- Last Thursday's Our View incorrectly stated Truman State hired 17 temporary faculty for this year. Truman actually hired 7 tenure track faculty and 12 temporary faculty.

Letter to the Editor

It may have come to your attention and the attention of some of your readers that on Labor Day, a "comedy show" came to Truman State University to perform. This performance was hosted by the College Republicans, and as Chairman of the College Republicans at Truman State University, I would like to apologize to anyone who may have attended this show. The College Republicans organized this event believing that only Michael Yetman, the comedian our club advertised, would be performing. We were neither aware that he would be accompanied by opening acts, nor aware of the subject matter included in these opening acts.

Once the show began, it became clear that these opening acts did not share the values that the College Re-

publicans are trying to promote. I want to, once again, apologize to anyone who attended and was offended by the off-color, vulgar, and offensive routine performed by these comedians.

This "comedy show" is touring college campuses around the state, being hosted by College Republican groups. Unfortunately, Truman State University was the first real show they had performed at on this tour. As chairman of the Truman Chapter of the College Republicans and as Executive Director of the Missouri College Republicans, I have taken quick action to inform our State Chairman of the inappropriate nature of this "comedy show." As a result, the group that performed this obscene routine has been pulled from the tour, and apologies have been is-

sued by the Chairman of the Missouri College Republicans and Michael Yetman himself, apologizing for allowing this act to perform at his show.

As a group, the College Republicans are trying to do everything in our power to right the wrong that was committed at the "comedy show" on Labor Day. This group that performed does not share the conservative values that our club tries to promote. We hope you accept our apology. If there are any further questions, please do not hesitate to direct them my way.

Josh Foster

Chairman
College Republicans at Truman State

Cartoon

By Rizwan Mahmood



Dibbuk Box raises suspicions



Adam Rollins

Let it be known to timid and adventurous souls alike: there is paranormal activity right here in humdrum little Kirksville. Jason Haxton, a faculty member at A.T. Still University, owns a box which he claims houses a demon of Hebrew lore known as a Dybbuk (or Dibbuk).

The new movie "The Possession" is loosely based on a book written by Haxton and published by our own Truman State University Press, entitled "The Dibbuk Box," which recounts Haxton's experience and reportedly unexplained afflictions after acquiring the box.

My curiosity was piqued upon learning such strange occurrences might be happening locally. Before committing myself to belief or skepticism, I decided the matter warranted further investigation. Like any normal college student, I went online to see if anyone had already done the investigation for me, and they had. The earliest known information about the box, which is really a little wine cabinet, is that it was

purchased in Spain by a Polish woman, who was on her way to America fleeing the Holocaust, according to Dibbukbox.com, operated by the box's owner.

Decades later it was bought by an antiques collector, reportedly to the great relief of the woman's family. Since, it has been auctioned on eBay several times, accompanied by a series of stories about unfortunate occurrences that plague each owner, according to a 2004 L.A. Times article.

If this box's mysterious origins and frequency of changing hands between frightened owners reminds anyone of the old "Goosebumps" horror series, you are not alone. To me, this box sounds like one of those chain letters that will make you die in a fiery car crash if you fail to pass it on to ten other people.

Well, no owner of the box has died so far, but they all claim to have been distressed by terrible, otherwise unexplainable phenomena, including horrifying nightmares involving an old hag, suffering a stroke, smelling cat urine, losing hair and the most terrible of all — burning out lights, according to Kevin Mannis's eBay post selling the box. Okay, that last one is pretty silly, but someone really did attribute an overabundance of burnt-out bulbs to ownership of the box.

Haxton claims to have suffered from medically unexplained conditions, including full-body welts and constant choking. These illnesses, Haxton claims, continued until he performed a cleansing ritual and put the Dibbuk box into a bigger, custom-

built anti-Dibbuk box, at which point he coughed up two handfuls of a "slime-like substance."

Now, in my opinion, this is all really gross, but cool stuff. I think there could be an angry Hebrew-spirit-demon-thing locked inside this box. The skeptic in me, however, compels me to ask a few key questions. How many of the people who had old hag nightmares were told scary stories about an old hag beforehand? How old was the woman who had a stroke on the very same day as receiving the box? How many of the people who smelled cat pee actually own cats? What was the recommended versus actual wattage on all those light bulbs that burnt out? And how many doctors at A.T. Still or other medical centers can confirm that Haxton's condition was "medically unexplainable?"

Without answering these questions, I cannot be certain this box is the real deal. I suppose the only way to know for sure is to buy the box from Haxton and see for myself whether or not it really inflicts terrible suffering upon the owner and others around it.

Of course, I would never do that, because it would expose hundreds of other dorm residents to needless risk. Yeah, that's why I won't buy the box. I'm not scared. No, really, I'm not scared at all. Maybe I should go read that book and find out how to do those cleansing rituals, just in case.

Adam Rollins is a sophomore communication major from St. Charles, 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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