

From the *desk* of the **Editor**

Don't forget far-off Barnett



Emily Battmer

Last week, "A Day at Truman State University" made its video debut on Truman State's website and YouTube channel. I saw it shared a dozen times on my Facebook newsfeed accompanied by enthusiastic exclamations of support and pride for our University.

I must admit, the video was enough to touch even me, someone who wasn't totally convinced until recently Truman really was "home." I applaud the University for bringing together students, faculty and alumni with such a heartfelt representation of what this campus is all about — almost.

For those who haven't seen the video, it depicts a variety of campus organizations and activities, from sipping coffee on The Quad to working at the Bike Co-op. Kirk Memorial Building, Baldwin Hall, the Student Recreation Center and Magruder Hall got nice shoutouts, as well as Greek Life, the music program and the Student Union Building. Spike was featured, of course, as well as an unnamed infant showing its Truman spirit with a purple shirt. But something was missing.

Something about the video didn't quite encompass the full "Truman experience" for me. What if I don't dance, belong to a sorority or study biology? What if you won't find me in Magruder, Ophelia Parrish or any other "main campus" building? What if I am a member of the Equestrian team or, I don't know — student media? What if I am a student of justice systems, anthropology, geography, sociology, nursing or communication disorders — one of the many majors you will find in, say, Barnett Hall?

For me, "home" is the newsroom. "Truman" actually means Barnett, and my college experience is all about writing, designing, editing and keeping the rest of campus up-to-date on important issues and events. I might be an extra-long hike from your science class, but I am about as connected to the University as you can get.

Being on the outskirts of the physical campus, it sometimes is easy to feel forgotten. However, my department, my Truman Media Network family and my fellow Barnett-dwellers represent a significant demographic within the University — one I like to think helps shape our campus and community and makes Truman what it is.

Emily Battmer is a senior communication major from Kansas City, Mo.

Our View

Substance abuse never is justified

Last week's presentation against the use of Adderall to enhance academic performance brings up an issue that has not received much attention, but still is important. Information isn't available about the number of Truman State students who use Adderall or other prescription drugs without a prescription, but we would like to address any who have resorted to this unhealthy practice.

We understand college life is stressful. We're students ourselves, and we know what it's like to have multiple part-time jobs and a full schedule of classes and assignments. Trying to balance work and school and still have something that resembles a social life can be challenging, frustrating and exhausting.

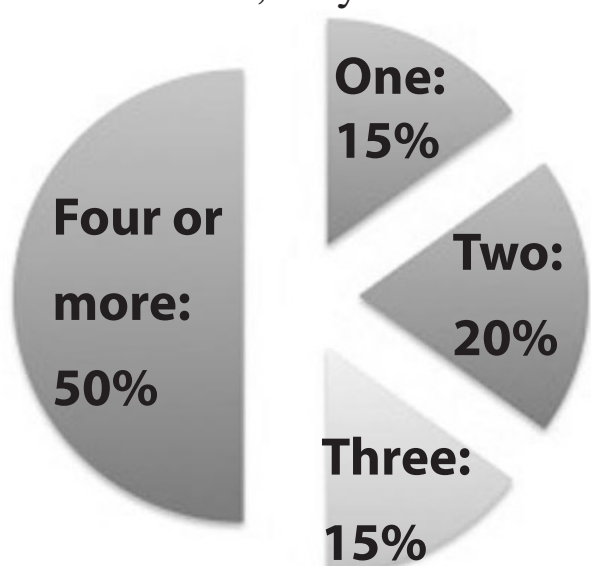
But using a mind-altering drug to make up for a lack of sleep or focus is an ill-advised decision. Adderall and prescription drugs like it are designed to meet the needs of specific people and never were meant for over-the-counter use. Besides the fact that being caught with non-prescribed Adderall could lead to jail time, abusing prescription drugs could hurt you mentally and socially as much as it might help academically.

Adderall might not be as dangerous or immediately harmful as other controlled substances, but there are better ways to handle a full workload. Sacrifice a little social time to get more sleep. If your workload is burning you out, check if you can drop one of your classes and take it online during the summer or at a community college.

And if you ignore every other piece of advice here, please do not consume Adderall in combination with alcohol. That's one mistake that could have deadly consequences.

Web Poll

How many different social media, such as Facebook or Pinterest, do you use?



Out of 20 votes.

Privileges

OF A CSI RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

- Organizational support services from the Center for Student Involvement, including access to a student organization mailbox
- Access to copier and printing capabilities through the Center for Student Involvement
- Ability to post advertisements and information according to established Advertising/Posting Policies
- Access to scheduling University property and facilities through established procedures
- Eligibility to apply for funding from the Funds Allotment Council
- Ability to participate in University-sponsored activities for recruiting membership and leadership development opportunities
- Access to a student organization website and e-mail accounts
- Access to the Banner roster system and cocurricular record sources

**According to the Center for Student Involvement*

CSI should rethink policies



Laknath Gunathilake

The Center For Student Involvement needs to rethink its policies.

According to an Oct. 31 report by the Truman Index, the number of student organizations on campus gradually has decreased since 2010. Although the CSI implies the decrease is a result of existing clubs folding for lack of membership, it's evident the CSI chartering policy has had a significant impact on the formation of new organizations on campus.

A closer look at the CSI chartering policy reveals the CSI is hindering interest aggregation and diversity within Truman State organizations. The CSI chartering process is arbitrary, and the organization's exclusive monopoly on campus resources such as information boards and meeting places raises several concerns about how much they actually promote diversity.

Truman is a melting pot of different interests. There are more than 230 campus organizations that range from cultural, Greek Life, religious, special interest and service organizations.

According to the CSI website, for the University to recognize a new or-

ganization, the organization must have a purpose different from other groups on campus, a minimum of 10 interested students and at least one Truman faculty member willing to serve as the organization's sponsor.

However, during spring 2013, the CSI rejected several organizations that sought charter status although some of these organizations clearly met the given criteria.

When Global Zero, an international non-partisan organization committed to the elimination of nuclear weapons, sought to establish a chapter at Truman, the CSI rejected it for lack of a unique purpose.

Matthew Kennedy, program advisor for service and leadership at the CSI, said in response to a query about why Global Zero was rejected, "Although there's not a group on our campus that's sole purpose of existence is the reduction of nuclear proliferation, there are many groups that strive to raise awareness about social issues."

If an organization is rejected on the basis that its purpose overlaps with another organization's broader appeal, how can an organization such as Habitat for Humanity exist alongside Students for Social Change? Doesn't the elimination of poverty housing and homelessness also amount to engaging social issues?

Junior Ryan Brannon, a CSI organizational development team member, said the goal of chartering an organization is to form "good organizations that hold broad appeal while improving the quality of and variety within the University community."

How can an organization have a unique purpose and have broad appeal at

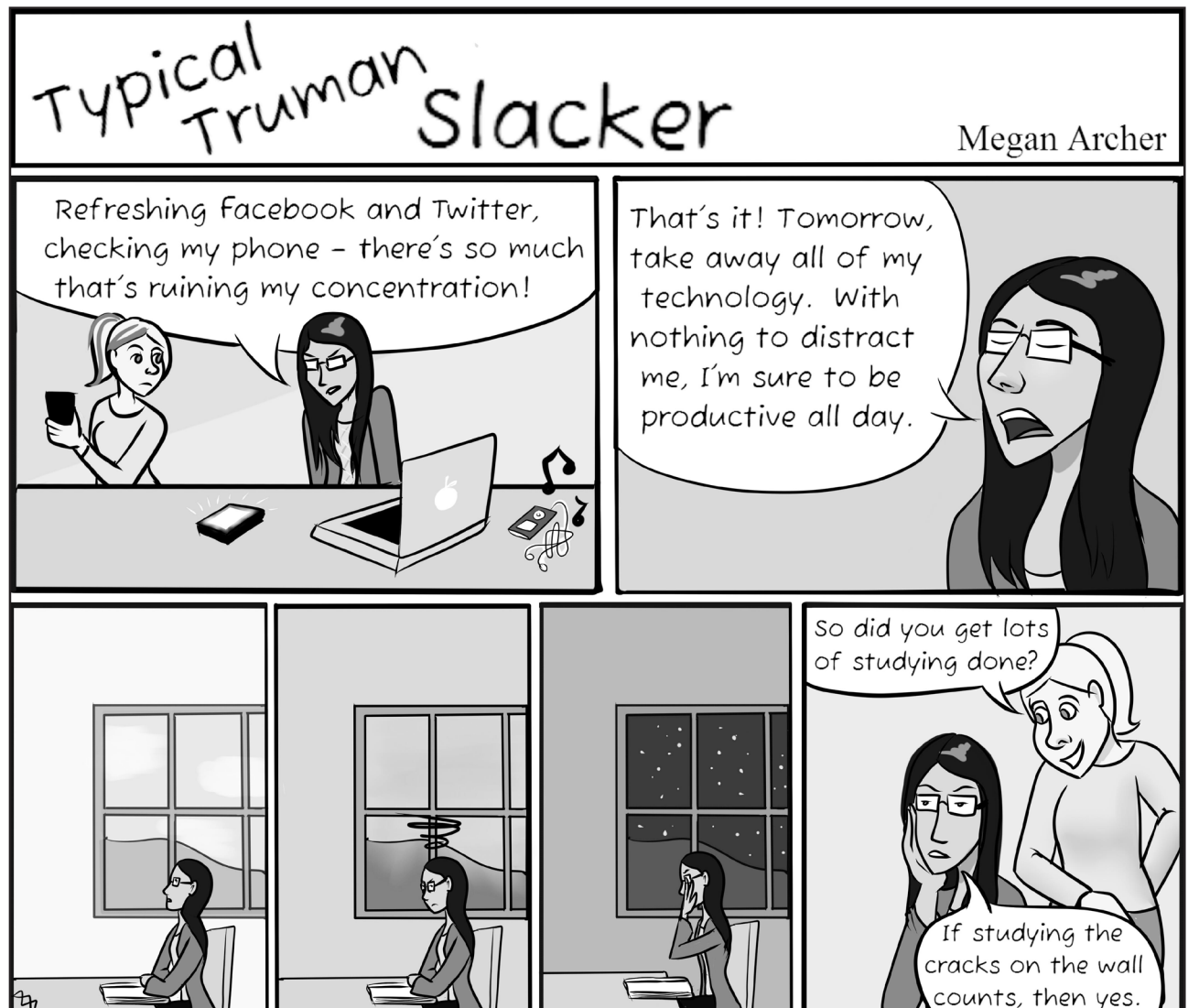
the same time? Of course not everyone is interested in nuclear non-proliferation, playing the ukulele or creative anachronisms dedicated to the recreation of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Such niche organizations naturally would have limited membership and limited interest from a dedicated minority.

The CSI requirement of 10 interested members as a minimum to start an organization also is a discriminatory practice that sets limits on special interests. If, for instance, a group of five students seek to charter a wheelchair tennis club, does the CSI then reject their organizational claim for the lack of five more wheelchair-bound tennis enthusiasts?

Meanwhile, only chartered organizations are allowed to post flyers on campus notice boards except for the public notice board in Pickler Memorial Library. This policy prevents new organizations from seeking interested parties, since they are unable to even post a flyer about a potential interest meeting. Not only does the CSI control public postings, the organization reserves certain rights for public assembly. An organization is not able to book a classroom on campus unless they have been chartered by the CSI.

If the CSI continues its current chartering practices, it seriously could hamper the creation of new organizations and it is high time for the CSI to rethink its own policies, or get somebody to rethink their policies for them.

Laknath Gunathilake is a senior political science major from Colombo, Sri Lanka



Contact

To submit corrections or to contact the editor, please email index.editor@gmail.com, call us at 660-785-4449 or submit a letter via our website tmn.truman.edu/theindex.

Editorial Policy

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