

Don't let college pass you by



Bethany Boyle
Editor-in-Chief

One frigid day last semester I sprinted across campus for my grade. I had forgotten my book on the day of an open book quiz, the last one of the semester, and with my A hanging in the balance I made it to my apartment and back to the second floor of Barnett Hall in just under nine minutes. The day I ran across campus is also a decent representation of how I have navigated college.

For the last couple of years, I have lived in a constant state of motion, set on getting my degree and getting to the next adventure. However, as I stand on Truman State's campus peering into the fog of the near and distant future beyond graduation, I realize that in my rush I have taken for granted and completely missed opportunities for relationships, learning and experiences I will never get back.

It's depressing to realize I've gone four years saying I would hang out with friends from freshman year, the campus fellowship group and the swing dance team, and then failed to make it happen. Looking back, I see how I've neglected those who have made an effort to remain connected to me. I've made empty promises to "be in touch" or "hang out soon," reminiscent of the happy hour scene from "He's Just Not That Into You," and things turned out just as well — I have nothing to show for it.

To my fellow seniors, we're not out for the count yet. My advice is to make a list of people you've been meaning to touch base with. I have one on the wall of my room. I call it my joy list. Once or twice a week I try to reach out to a friend I haven't talked to in a while and set up a time to hang out, get coffee, go thrifting or Skype.

I tell every prospective student I've talked to that a big reason I came to Truman is for the people. We literally are surrounded by some of the most sincere, passionate, welcoming and brilliant individuals in the Midwest. I am determined to no longer overlook

this fact and am making an effort to better appreciate and engage with others on this campus.

I also wish I hadn't lost sight of what an honor and privilege it is to get an education. My grandparents didn't get to go to college. They fought in wars, raised children and made a life for themselves. Friends of mine are working hard to make it in the world, some with and some without a diploma. Currently, my biggest problems are getting my assignments in, logging enough sleep and deciding what to eat for lunch. Until this semester, I never quite grasped how good I have it here.

I regret not staying focused and not fully appreciating this time in college set aside to prepare me for the next stage of life. I wish I had approached each class with a solid work ethic and sense of wonder at the opportunity to learn new things.

So where do I go from here? Bottom line — it's time to take stock of the time I do have left on this campus. I'm starting this off right by finally committing to go to the True Men concert tomorrow. It's cringe-worthy to think I went seven semesters without attending a concert of one of Truman's three a capella groups. Please don't make the same mistake.

My hope is that it doesn't stop there. With the Kohlenberg Lyceum events, Andy Grammer coming next week and a lot of swing dancing left this semester, there are bright spots on the horizon before the finish line. There's no way to do it all, but with this perspective, I hope to turn days and nights wasted on web surfing into constructive experiences and quality time.

If it's not too late for me, it's not too late for you either, whether you have three months or three years left. My goal is to appreciate every day I have left at this institution, and I invite you to join me on this mission. The checklist below is specifically designed for you to cut out, fill in and tack up on your bulletin board or tape to your mirror. Catch up with the friends you've been meaning to call, put your best effort into your classes, and find some time to go to cool concerts and events. You only get one shot at this — make it count.

Bethany Boyle is a senior communication major from St. Louis, Mo.



What do you look for when choosing a presidential candidate?



Chad Krahenbuhl
Sophomore

I'm looking for someone who stands for what I stand for and has the same beliefs. Not only my beliefs morally and ethically, but also my beliefs fiscally and the policies they're trying to pass.



Bethany Travis
Sophomore

Well, I'm really bad about following current events and keeping up with the debates, so I mostly just go to isidewith.com and fill out the questionnaire to see which candidate it tells me my personal views align closely with. Party lines aren't that important to me, but what each candidate is going to do policy-wise is.



Sam Andrzejewski
Junior

The people who say they're going to do the most for us or the most change appeal to me, but not all of their ideas necessarily correlate with my beliefs. Then again, I do not know a lot about politics in general but that being said, I still find it very unfortunate that some of us are voting for a particular person because the rest of the candidates are, therefore, not favorable.



Heather Brostrom
Sophomore

Though it might seem kind of shallow, I look for someone who has very similar opinions to me. And someone who actually seems capable of implementing those, not just someone who has the money to do those things, but a will. And has always shown a will to do those things and is not just seeming to change their opinions for the candidacy.



John Ross
Senior

When I'm looking at different presidential candidates, I look for those candidates that subscribe to the same values and general beliefs that I have. For example, I believe that it's very important that we address issues of inequality, both economic and social, and for those reasons I feel like candidates that pay very little attention to those issues aren't candidates that I can reasonably support.

Jared Roberts is a freshman political science major from Maryland Heights, Mo.

Things To Do Before I Graduate

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Get in touch with _____, _____ and _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Take another class with _____ that professor I really like |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remember _____'s birthday | <input type="checkbox"/> Dig deeper in my _____ class this semester |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have a movie night with _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visit Thousand Hills State Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go see a Oplay Oconcert | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in:
○ Humans vs. Zombies | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Don't blame the game if the fans are toxic



Jared Roberts

Toxic fandoms take a game too far and make it unenjoyable for the general public. They can be found for almost every video game no matter the genre. There are a few reasons why toxic fandoms develop. To properly analyze them, look at "League of Legends," a multiplayer online battle arena game, as an example.

The goal of "League of Legends" is to work with four teammates, either friends or random people online, to defeat an enemy team and destroy its base. This game is a good example of a toxic fandom because it is one of the most-played electronic sports worldwide — with 25 million users playing at least one game a day currently — and it has a lot of elements that lead to people getting very attached to and excited about the game.

The first element of "League of Legends" that might cause a toxic fandom is its competitiveness. If we look outside video games to sports such as football, baseball, basketball and soccer, we see these same sort of toxic fan bases. People rally behind their team, going out of their way to show support and bring down anyone who does not support that team. When we look back at "League of Legends," this also happens when the professionals play. Even beyond that, simply playing the game gets people riled up and causes this toxicity. This is because people are playing for something. They want to win the game. In "League of Legends," there is a ranking system so

players can level up by winning games. You also get in-game points to spend on different champions or other aspects of the game — the more you win, the more you get. So while some players are just trying to enjoy the game and have fun, others are more concerned about the in-game incentives. This leads to the overzealous players trash-talking the more casual players, ruining the gaming experience.

I would argue every online game has this sort of system driving its toxicity. For example, we all have heard "Call of Duty" jokes about 12-year-olds calling people noobs and making mom jokes, and "Call of Duty" has a similar system where you get rewards for winning. This is something you simply cannot avoid. You will never get rid of competitiveness in gaming, nor should you. Also, if you get rid of the rewards system, people will become bored with the games and not want to continue to play. That's part of the draw of games such as "League of Legends" for example — you can continue to get new champions to play and customize.

I do think there is a solution to this problem. I think the best solution is for people to stop expressing their emotions in the game. "League of Legends" gives you the option to talk to the enemy team during a game. But this mostly is used to complain to the other team or make fun of them. Getting rid of the option to express these negative attitudes is the pathway to a better gaming experience for everyone.

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