

# MEDIA mania student publications present alternative forums on campus

## Monitor sets up for second try

BY JULIA HANSEN  
Staff Reporter

It won't be long before The Monitor is back in print.

Truman's alternative newspaper, The Monitor, has been out of print for more than a year, but plans are in the works to bring back the student-run, independent publication. Consisting solely of submissions from University students, faculty and community members, The Monitor has a very small staff, said senior Daniel Curtis, a Monitor staff member. Open to any campus or community member, submissions include a wide variety of artistic talents like poetry, columns, letters, album reviews, photography and articles, he said.

Monitor is revived, the newspaper will be similar to the old version but will have several new attributes. Curtis said he will be organizing a community calendar for the newspaper to inform people about what is going on both on campus and in the community. Although he never has written an article before, Curtis said he wants to write one that highlights random things in the community that few people know about.

"[It] just presents [readers] with issues that aren't really raised anywhere else on campus."

Tony Bell  
Sophomore

"It's more or less supposed to be an alternative newspaper to the Index," Curtis said. "It's not supposed to replace it, it's just another means of expression. It's usually much more focused on the creative side and not what would necessarily be published in your regular media."

The Monitor staff plans to publish its revived newspaper in time to distribute it at the Tom Thumb arts festival April 11 in Kirksville, said senior Jessica Wright, arts and photography editor for The Monitor. Wright said she has been a reader since her freshman year but became involved while the paper has been out of print.

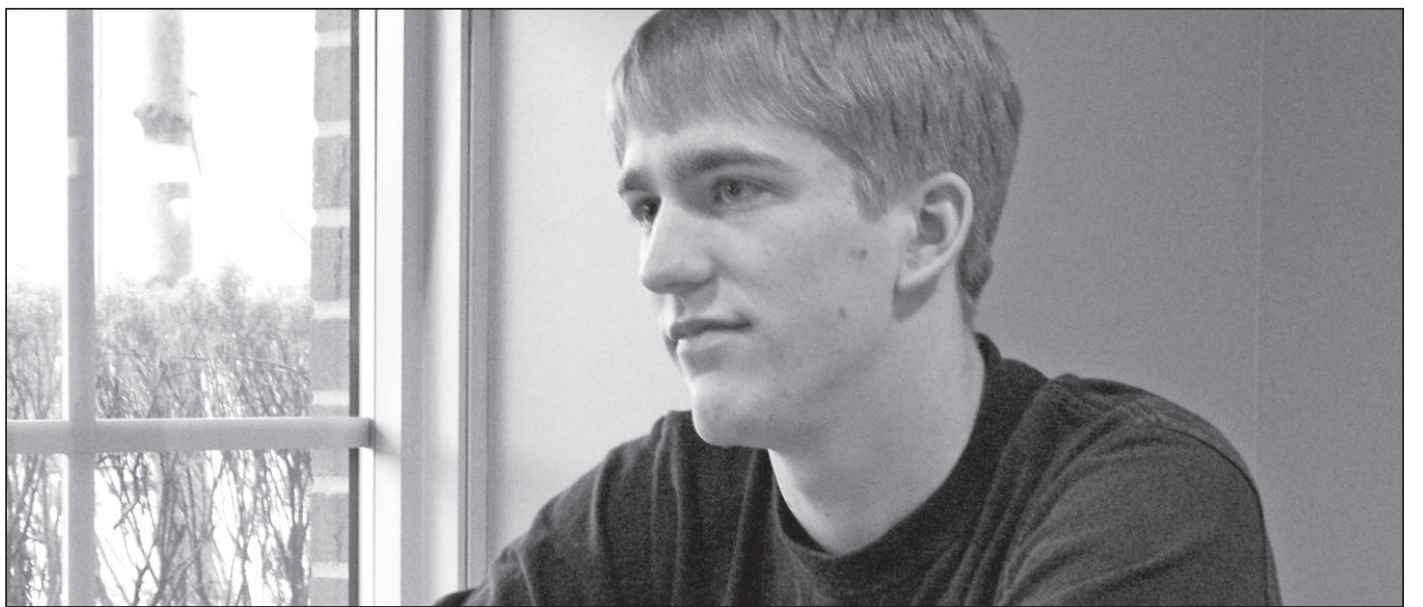
"[The Monitor] is special because absolutely anyone can contribute," Wright said. "Anyone can have an impact on what gets published."

Curtis said that when The

"[Writing an article] was one of those things that I'd always kept telling myself that I was going to do and then never did, and then [The Monitor] fell apart, and I felt really bad," Curtis said. "So now this is partially my way of making up for that."

The Monitor was discontinued more than a year ago because of a lack of funding, Curtis said that as of now, there are companies ready to advertise in the newspaper for funding, but he said he also is hoping The Monitor will receive extra funding from Truman's Funds Allotment Council. Curtis said that when the paper is reopened, it should be published every two weeks and is typically available in bins around campus, near other print publications.

If community members, students or faculty and staff are interested in submitting their work, they can drop it off in the Monitor's mailbox in the Center for Student Involvement or e-mail their submissions to monitor.truman@gmail.com. Meetings for The Monitor take place at 9 p.m. Wednesday evenings in the SUB Down Under.



Mayank Dhungana/Index

Junior Spencer Whiting has participated in National Novel Writing Month for the last two years. His roommate, sophomore Josh Blechle, said Whiting listens to loud music for inspiration.

## Student turns hobby into novel

BY ALEX BOLES  
Assistant Features Editor

Junior Spencer Whiting works as a team of one.

Whiting has participated in National Novel Writing for the last two years. The event takes place in November, and the only criterion is that the stories have to be 50,000 words.

"I was always one of those little dorky kids that read all the time, and I always just kind of liked the way it was done and thought I'd give it my own shot," Whiting said.

He said his attempt in 2006 was not as successful as last November's. In 2006 he chose a fantasy topic and found out there were too many elements missing from the plot. He said he is much happier with the result of his most recent work.

"This story is a lot of me and a lot of not me," he said. "I mean, it's just this random dude who gets

stuck in kind of crap situations."

Whiting said he does not plan on getting his work published, however, it can be found at Writing.com/authors/liquid for anyone to view.

"The whole National Novel Writing Month thing is a great kick in the pants for 90 percent of authors who just don't have any motivation to get started, and so I got myself to get going and moving and stuff, but much longer than a month and I would have had nothing to say," he said.

Whiting said he has had two people read his novel and thinks his friends are supportive of his hobby.

"Not really many people are interested in reading it, but the fact that I wrote it, I think that they think that's cool," he said.

Freshman Becky Coffman said she read Whiting's novel in the span of a few days. She said his

writing keeps her interest.

"I think it's something I would normally read," Coffman said. "It's sort of a funny tone. He has a sarcastic tone in his writing, which appeals to me."

Coffman participated in the novel-writing month this past November for the first time. She said that although her story rambled on in a few places, she reached the 50,000-word requirement.

"I heard about it a few years ago, and it sounded like something that would be fun to do but sounded like a really big commitment," she said. "I just realized this year that 'Wow, people really do this, why don't I just try it?' And it was fun."

Sophomore Josh Blechle, Whiting's roommate, said he and Whiting have discussed his writing a few times together.

"A lot of the times while he's writing, he will kind of tell me about the storyline and I'll give him ideas," Blechle said. "... [I]

generally kind of know where he's going with it anyway because I feel like — even though I don't do any of the writing — I feel like I have a small part in the process at times."

He said that before Whiting starts writing, he blares music ridiculously loud in their room.

"Sometimes, I don't know how he manages to type because he's usually head banging or jumping up and down in his chair or something silly, but his music's always really loud, and so he kind of listens until he has an idea of what he wants to write about, and then he starts writing," he said.

Whiting said that although his major is English, he does not know if novel writing is the field he will go into after college. He said he is interested in journalism and editing.

"I like creating stories and stuff," Whiting said. "I'm a little nerd ball."

## Gadfly adds literary appeal to campus

BY MICHELLE MARTIN  
Staff Reporter

Gadfly, an independent student-run magazine, publishes a variety of art, articles, poetry and a myriad of other pieces every month, sophomore editor Tony Bell said. The publication is free and is distributed the first week of each month on the Quad and in local businesses.

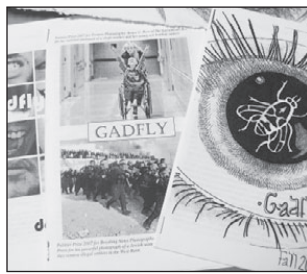
Bell said he founded Gadfly in high school with a friend. He brought the magazine to Truman his freshman year.

"It's just kind of an outlet for if people want to write something a little less formal than the Index," Bell said.

Bell said submissions are due the 20th of each month to gadflytsu@yahoo.com and that open submissions allow students to submit a wider variety of material.

"I like to say that the magazine is whatever people really want it to be because I only put in a few submissions every time, and it's up to everybody else to do their part," Bell said.

Besides serving as an avenue of expression, Gadfly also raises awareness of important topics, he said.



"[It] just presents [readers] with issues that aren't really raised anywhere else on campus," he said. "I've brought up Guantanamo Bay before, and Iraq and the peace rally we had here. We've had issues on abortion, terrorism [and] legalizing some forms of marijuana."

Bell said Gadfly also brings attention to alternative subjects or events that students might not read about elsewhere.

"[We have] different books that are reviewed, and we have a lot of music that wouldn't even penetrate into the Kirksville scene if it wasn't for Gadfly or the Monitor," he said. "We write reviews of concerts that are going on in St. Louis, Columbia, Des Moines, [Kansas City], everywhere. So it just kind of gives people something going on outside of Kirksville."

## Jane Says provides new outlet for women, men

BY MICHELLE MARTIN  
Staff Reporter

Last year, for their scholarship project, two senior women created Jane Says, a compilation of writing and art by Truman women that focused on their experiences. Now the project will become a yearly publication.

"They decided they were going to do Jane Says to give a voice to women in the community to talk about things that don't normally get talked about in public: body image issues, rape, just women's experience in general," senior Jennifer Miller said.

Jane Says has the potential to help women cope with important issues in their lives, Miller said, who took the role of editor of the publication this year.

"I think that part of what's really great about it is that it can be a confessional," she said. "It can be a place that's therapeutic for you to write about something or to do some art on something that maybe bothered you, and you hadn't thought about it."

Miller said she would like to broaden the horizons of Jane Says by publishing more diverse selections than before by accepting some pieces from men this year. She said they wanted an outlet of expression too.

Miller said she was surprised by the men's submissions.

"It comes from such a different place," she said. "... They're really honest, and it's really vulnerable and intimate."

In addition to male submissions, Jane Says will accept submissions from women in the local community.

"What I would really like to do is get more community submissions and have people submit the quilts that they do or a recipe that's

their family recipe with a story about why it's important to them," Miller said. "I think those kind of things aren't cherished by American society in general, and I think historically, these have been the outlets that women have [had] to express their creativity and express themselves and their experience of the world."

As a community group rather than a campus group, Jane Says faces cannot apply for campus funding, which forces the group to raise its own funds, she said.

Co-editor senior Tammy Graves said she thinks Jane Says serves a necessary role for women in the community.

"It is an excellent forum to celebrate being a woman," she said. "It can also be used as a political forum for bringing about change or commenting on something you don't like."

Graves said she thinks the publication can help connect women from all perspectives.

"It's supposed to be about building connections at different stages in your life," Graves said. "A perfect example is that [my sister is] 8 years old, and I'm 22, and our experiences as being girls are totally different."

Professor of English Linda Seidel worked with Jane Says when it began last year. She said she thinks venues like Jane Says are valuable to women who need an outlet.

"Last year many of the submissions were anonymous, and the editors specifically invited people to give testimony if they wanted to without attaching their names," she said. "Some things are just difficult to talk about, and I think that Jane Says offers a forum in which to do that."

She said that even now, women face societal challenges that need to be addressed.

"It still seems like women are some sort of marginal group or special interest," she said.



Mayank Dhungana/Index  
Senior Jennifer Miller, editor of Jane Says, said she has fresh ideas for the student and community publication this year.

"Even when we are the majority, we are still a special interest. I just feel, haven't we arrived yet?"

Seidel said Jane Says can connect women of all different perspectives, as well as serve as an outlet for their personal issues.

"I think a lot of people feel — especially if it's a painful experience they are writing about — ... that they are totally alone with this experience, that they can't tell anybody," she said. "... I think that it does have the effect of bringing people together."



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