

## Setting up shop



Mark Hardy/  
Index

**Amanda Langendoerfer and Dr. Thomas Trimborn setup "Encounters with Lincoln," the second in a three part exhibit in Pickler Memorial Library. The work will be on display during the month of October. On Oct. 13 there will be a bicentennial celebration with faculty speakers.**

# Braille signs missing in Student Union

BY CAITLIN DEAN  
Assistant News Editor

To most, the Student Union Building renovations look complete.

However, the SUB still lacks at least one vital detail: permanent signs labeling rooms. And as long as the building relies on temporary signs, the seeing-impaired go without certain direction. For now, only paper signs label rooms throughout the building, including the men's and women's restrooms on the second floor of the SUB. The restroom signs include Braille dots printed on the paper beneath the words.

Campus Planner Mark Schultz said signs outside rooms must display room numbers in Braille, a requirement under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"We got a sign package standard set up for our dorms," Schultz said. "We're trying to implement the same one at the Student Union. That just got into a little bit of a funding crunch, and it's coming in late as opposed to as part of the project."

The SUB renovation bid documents did not include the sign package as part of the general contractor's or architect's scope of work, Schultz said. He said the

entire building has signs on order, which he expects to see soon. The signs are tied up someplace in the system, Schultz said.

"[Until the signs are installed] a complaint could be filed, but as long as we're working at getting there, it's generally alright," Schultz said.

Schultz said that as campus buildings are renovated, accessibility also is upgraded. He said renovated residence halls and buildings have greater wheelchair accessibility and upgraded fire alarms for the hearing-impaired.

"As far as the blind, we're dealing with Braille signage," Schultz said. "We're probably not doing as good as we should, but we're doing what we can where we know we've got a problem."

Vicky Wehner, coordinator of disability services, said all campus buildings should contain signage and that most of the academic buildings have signage outside the classrooms. She said the current lack of signs in the SUB is probably just a delay.

"As the building gets finished, those are one of the last details to be ordered simply because they're small," Wehner said. "You don't want them thrown away inad-



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

**The sign on the men's restroom on the second floor of the Student Union Building is currently a piece of paper taped to the door. Though the sign has braille printing, there is no texture to it.**

vertently, and you want to wait until you have everything completed so you can now get those signs up."

Universities are not required to retrofit their buildings, Wehner said. This means that if no work has been done on a building since its original construction, schools do not have to make any changes, she said.

"The law only requires that as the building is updated, that they have to meet the mandates of the law at that time," Wehner said.

She said Truman has allowed outside groups to come and survey renovated buildings to ensure accessibility. Truman has met or exceeded the expectations of these groups, she said.

Wehner said Truman's blind students learn the

campus from a three-dimensional map. She said they know the locations of sidewalks as well as their material, such as brick or pavement.

"About the only complaint that I hear on a regular basis is ... if any of the facilities people or anyone has to pull on campus with a vehicle onto one of the sidewalks, the blind students are used to that sidewalk being an open sidewalk," Wehner said. "So if there's any construction going on or there's a barricade put up, that's probably the hardest thing for them to do."

Many years ago, a blind student got lost when campus sidewalks had not been cleared after a snowfall, she said.

"He couldn't feel the difference in the sidewalks, so he got lost,"

Wehner said. "Thankfully somebody got him back to his residence hall. But after that, facilities ... want[ed] [the two blind] students' schedules. They want to know what sidewalks they're going to use, and they're really good about cleaning those sidewalks."

Other challenges blind students face include students sitting in the hallways and book bags left unattended on the ground, she said.

Junior Alice Walkley said that although she doesn't pay particular attention to it, Truman seems accessible.

"I know that they put [braille] in elevators in BNB and that kind of thing, so, I'd say [the campus] is at least reasonably well-equipped," she said.

# Sonic boom heard over Kirksville

BY ROBERT WILLIAMS  
Staff Reporter

Two loud booming noises were heard at about 4 p.m. Tuesday Sept. 23.

Kirksville resident Racquel Gardner said she heard the booms shortly after the State Farm Insurance building where she works seemed to shake. Initial reports indicated that the sounds were made by an F-15 fighter jet flying faster than the speed of sound over Kirksville.

Physics Professor Peter Rolnick said that when a plane flies

at supersonic speeds, or faster than the speed of sound, it creates a wake-like effect in the air. He said the effect is similar to a boat traveling through water, only the wake is three-dimensional. This creates a cone of disturbed air behind the plane.

This cone follows the plane just as a wake would follow a boat. When that disturbed air travels to the ground, a large explosion typically is heard, he said.

John Schondelmeyer, public affair broadcast videographer for Whiteman Air Force Base,

said Whiteman doesn't house any planes capable of supersonic flight and could not be responsible for the sonic boom.

Scott Air Force Base hosted an air show earlier that week involving an F-15 demonstration.

"The planes [F-15s] left on the 22nd," Sgt. Sabrina Foster said. "Scott Air Force Base doesn't have any planes capable of making a sonic boom or breaking the sound barrier."

The Missouri Air National Guard is home to the 131st Fighter Wing, an F-15 unit. The 131st Fighter Wing is the only unit in

Missouri that has military aircraft capable of supersonic flight.

"It could very possibly be F-16s out of another unit," said Capt. Bridget Zorn, public affairs officer. "Anybody in the region can use our air space."

After checking with the pilots of the 131st Fight Wing, Zorn denied having any planes in the area at the time.

"It is possible that Boeing was running [an] F-15 test over that area during that time," Zorn said.

Boeing could not be reached for comment.

## NEWS | In Brief

### Career Expo comes to Truman

On Oct. 22, students will have the opportunity to look at various career fields and to network with potential future employers. The event is open to everyone. Upperclassmen are encouraged to apply for interview slots. Sign ups for the Career Expo will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 15 on the Mall. Students can sign up for interviews, have their résumés critiqued and enjoy free food.

### Committee to investigate student voting

The House Administration Committee will host a hearing "Ensuring the Right of College Students to Vote" in Washington D.C. today. The hearing is in response to recent controversy in Virginia and evidence of unnecessary barriers to student voters in numerous states across the country. The hearing will focus on local instances of restrictive voting practices, restrictive state policies and policy solutions.

### Business no longer coming to Kirksville

Despite local interest, Stark Brothers Fulfillment Call Center will not be coming to Kirksville. Phil Tate, director of Kirksville Regional Economic Development, said the company chose a location in Moberly, Mo., because the location would enable the business to begin running sooner.

### Special use permit reissued

The Kirksville City Council decided to give back the special use permit to Tiffany Platte, owner of the Brashhear House Bed and Breakfast. The Council originally revoked Platte's permit because she failed to comply with city ordinances. After her permit was rescinded, Platte began paving her driveway and parking area. Satisfied with the progress, the Council passed a resolution that will allow Platte to continue operating her business.

### TMN to cover vice presidential debate

Members of the Truman Media Network — which is made up of the Index, KTRM, News 36 and Detours — are in St. Louis today covering the debate between vice presidential candidates Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., and Gov. Sarah Palin, R-Alaska. The team will periodically update [tmn.truman.edu](http://tmn.truman.edu) with video, audio, blog, photo and print coverage.

### No issue next week

The Index will not print Thursday Oct. 9, 2008 as classes will not be in session for Midterm Break. The Index will resume publication Thursday Oct. 16, 2008.

## Student Senate | In Brief

- Senate discussed student-initiated course proposals with Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost Tony Paino and Director of Interdisciplinary Studies Michael Kelrick.

- Senate decided to request a retraction from the Index for a statement attributed to Vice-President Brett Wiley in last week's issue. According to the Sept. 25 issue of the Index, Wiley said Senate will host a rally Oct. 3 for students who disagree with the Board's closed meetings regarding funding. Senate said this statement was misinterpreted and that Wiley meant students who were unhappy with the policy should voice their opinions at the Board of Governors meeting.

- Senate appointed three associate senators: sophomore Emily Stewart, freshman Kristin Marshall, and freshman Zach Buckler.

## DPS | Reports

- 10/1 Subject was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants, Possession of up to 35 grams of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.
- 9/28 Subject was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants.
- 9/27 Subject was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants.
- 9/24 Damage to a vehicle was reported outside of Campbell Apartments.
- 9/24 A bicycle was reported stolen outside of Ophelia Parish.
- 9/24 A report was filed about theft from Ryle Hall.



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To view internship requirements go to [http://career.truman.edu/student/internship/mogov\\_brochure.htm](http://career.truman.edu/student/internship/mogov_brochure.htm).

For more information about the internship, contact Heidi Templeton at 785-4016.