

## To Write Love on Her Arm

National event supports victims of self-harm

PAGE 11



## INSIDE TRULife

COLUMN



### With Love, Anne

Studies show women are attracted to bad boys despite risk **PAGE 10**

### ALL EYES ON



### Matt Szewczyk

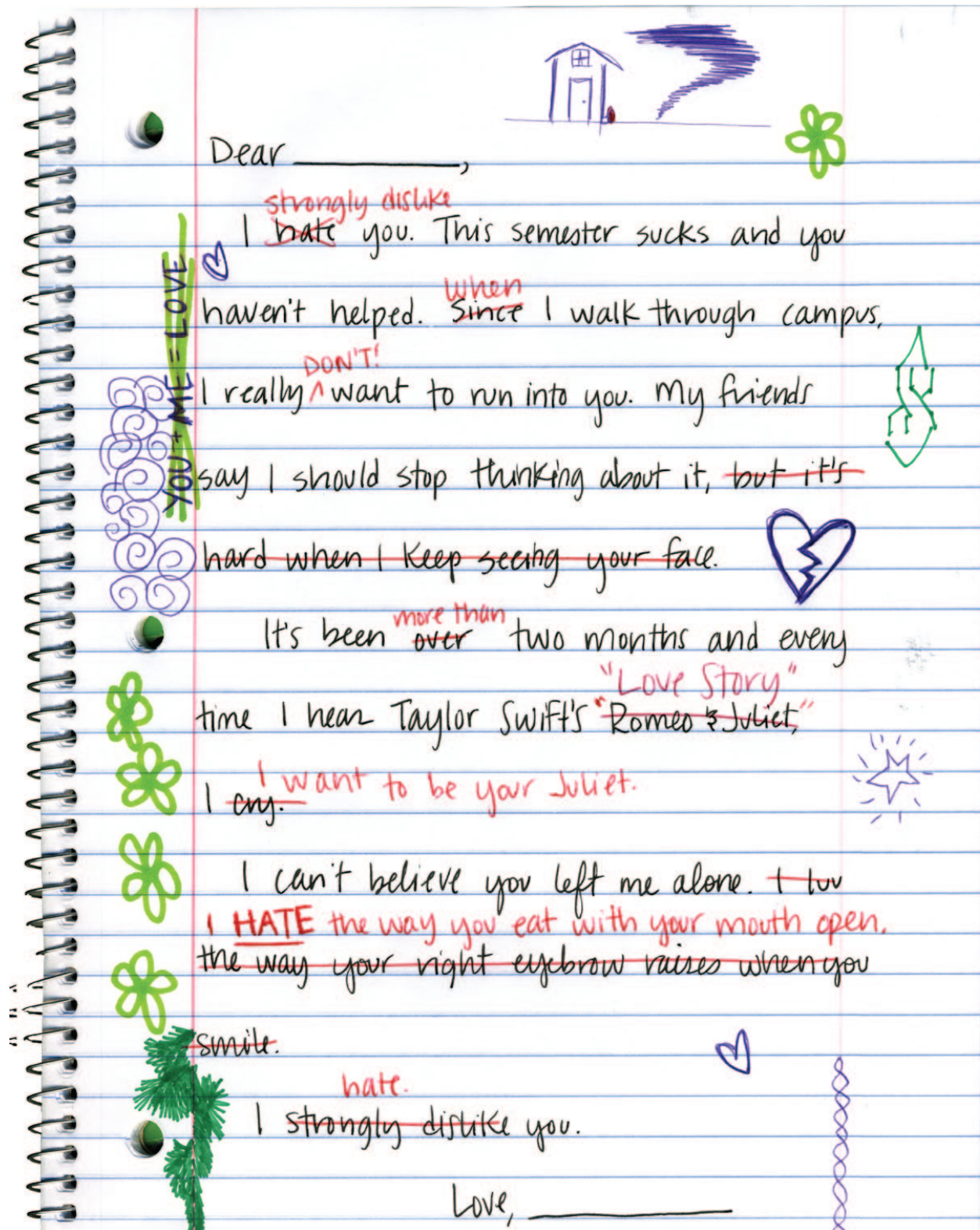
Student makes film and hopes to continue his movie-making career **PAGE 11**

### REVIEW



### 'V' television show

New show creates story of aliens living among humans **PAGE 12**



## Unwritten Letters

### Student publishes thoughts, feelings

Junior creates compilation of unwritten letters

BY ANNA MEIER  
Staff Reporter

Junior Alex Boles has created a compilation of letters, "PostSecret" style, from hundreds of people who never had a chance to write them until now. She first launched a blog and then compiled blog submissions into a book titled



Alex Boles

"Unwritten Letters Project," which is currently in the

process of being published. As the first student author in Truman's bookstore, she will be holding a book signing there from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 2. The Index sat down with Boles last week to talk about her book.

**Index:** How did you come up with the idea for this book?

**Boles:** It was inspired by Diane Johnson's Family Communication class, and the class is really, as ironic as it sounds, family-based. We became a family because we were so com-

fortable discussing family issues with each other and [our] pasts, and it was a really good environment.

"I was watching this movie one day, and it was about love letters, and I kind of wondered, when I was little I would always write in my diary to people like, 'Why are you like this? Why aren't we together?' Little girl stuff. I wondered if anybody else kind of did that, and I thought, 'I should create a blog.'"

Please see **BOLES**, Page 13

## Class studies environmental rhetoric

BY EMMA MUELLER  
Staff Reporter

This time last year, senior Chris Boning had an idea. She saw a hole in the curriculum for an environmental rhetoric course.

After many conversations and administrative hurdles, Boning now is the instructor for COMM 320: Environmental Rhetoric. Boning, and Kristopher Stroup, assistant professor of communication, received support for the class through the grant for Student-Initiated Courses. Stroup took hold of the class to handle theories and historical information, but Boning now has assumed the role of the instructor.

After personally designing and developing the class, Boning said she had to submit a 10- to 15-page proposal to the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, as well as the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies.

"Basically, [the course] just studies the relationship between the environmental movement and the media and how the players of the environmental movement get

their message out," Boning said.

The class is small with only nine students, the majority of whom are communication majors or minors. A class size works well with the discussion-based format Boning has chosen.

"About half of it is reading and discussion, and the other half of it is a service project," Boning said. "It was designed to implement what students have learned into a practical project. This semester, we're helping [with] the compost project. We've created some posters to educate people about food waste."

Stroup taught the class for the first few weeks so certain theories could be covered before Boning took over. Stroup, who is present in every class, said he thought the transition was smooth.

"I would say it's different, but that's not really a model of a person's readiness or not," Stroup said. "It's just the Student-Initiated Courses are a really unusual model that I think is pretty powerful once you get used to it. [It] moves away from that professor/lecturer centric model that is more typical of undergraduate courses."

Stroup said he thinks that the class has been a success so far. Stroup said Boning's presence in the eco movement and her overall credibility have made it easy for her to gain respect and enhance the class. In addition to the service project, the class has consisted of data collection, a poster campaign and an article written by the class in hopes of publication.

about the broader environmental consciousness on campus because they've done a very good job of closing the loop and composting the waste, but still remain frustrated with the sheer volume of food waste that gets produced on campus. It was in that tension that our project emerged."

Junior TJ Faust, a student in the class, said his favorite part of the class is working on the project that brings to light the issue of food waste.

"It's a real situation, and instead of just studying it, we're participating in a movement that we're trying to create," Faust said. "It's been interesting trying to motivate people or make people aware of the issue. We've been doing a poster campaign for that and we did a survey earlier in the semester and we're going to try to put together a literature review article that we're going to try to get published."

Faust said he definitely would enroll in another student-taught course because of the comfortable, low-stress environment of the class.

"It's casual because we feel less intimidated by our instructor," Faust said. "You think of her as a fellow classmate, but she definitely has more knowledge and can usually support the discussion because she's much more aware of environmental issues than the rest of us."

With all that the class consists of, Boning said it is difficult to be an instructor and a student at the same time.

"It's actually really challenging because something I realized right away is that when you're a student, you get feedback from your professor," Boning said. "When you're in charge, there's no one giving you feedback."

Design by Antonette Bedessie/ Index