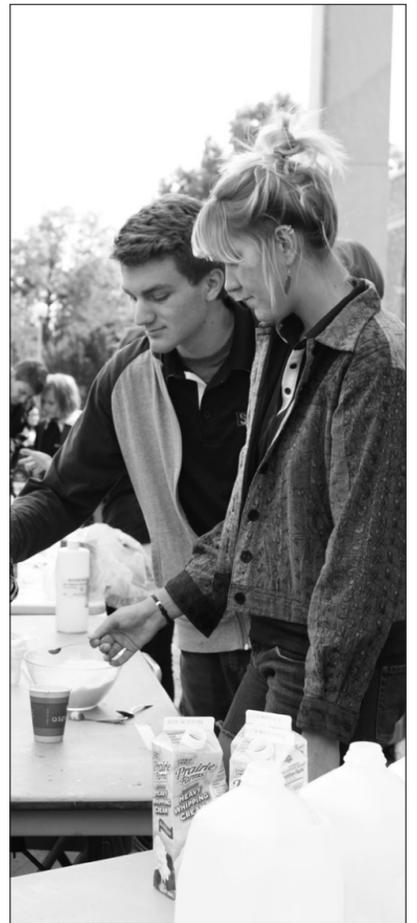


# Students chill out with ice cream



Lindsey Borgna/Index  
 Left, freshmen Rebecca Sohn and Zach Ley enjoy ice cream at the Student Activities Board Ice Cream Creations event Sept. 15 on The Mall. Above, sophomore Abbey Meyer prepares homemade ice cream for students. Right, sophomores John Riti and Sara Redel help students prepare homemade ice cream treats of their own.

# “I’m not a girl, not yet a woman”



BY BLAISE HART-SCHMIDT  
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When do we become adults? This is something I often think about. Legally, I’ve been an adult for several years. I think I’m pretty mentally and emotionally mature, but if life pre-

sented me with a form with two boxes, youth or adult, I’m not sure which I would check off.

I am the epitome of the Britney Spears song, “I’m Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman.”

Do we become adults when we no longer are granted children’s price admission at the movie theater? Or when we start going to doctor’s appointments without parents, uneasy at the end when it’s time to make the next appointment? Um, the 14th of next month sounds OK, I guess ... Let me call my dad and see.

My mom visited this weekend for Family Day, and I was reminded of the constant nagging known as “being a mom.” Pay your bills, do well in school, get plenty of rest, but not too much, are you caught up on thank you notes?

“Mom, stop, I’m 21 years old!” I whined. “I can take care of it, I’m an adult!”

I guess when it comes to defending myself to my mom I am an adult.

I’ve spoken to friends who say they feel the same, that this awkward in-between feeling was supposed to have ended years ago with the termination of puberty. They agree with me about feeling stuck between two demographics, but then I have a sneaking suspicion they think I’m crazy for even bringing up the topic.

People keep asking me if I’m excited to graduate in May, which I think is another way of asking if I’m ready to be an adult. How am I supposed to answer that? I can really imagine only two responses: Yes, I’m excited to enter a phase of my life that will last me the rest of my life and is rumored to be monotonous, stressful and tiring. Or, no, I think I’ll stay in la-la land, grasping

the final threads of youth and eventually becoming one of those delusional middle-aged women you see at the mall wearing Victoria’s Secret sweatpants and feather extensions in their hair.

Maybe the question shouldn’t be about when we become adults, but how. I assume we become adults by acting maturely, putting others first and deciding to spend our paycheck at the grocery store instead of in the Taco Bell drive-thru line. We are fully grown when our actions reflect responsibility and good judgment, not tonight’s TV schedule or this week’s bar specials.

Hopefully one day I’ll identify as a grown, adult woman and a valuable member in civil society. But until that magical day, I think I’ll stick to analyzing Britney lyrics in my room and enjoying life one day at a time.



**Are you interested in graduate school but are unsure how to prepare and be competitive? Consider applying for the McNair Program at Truman.**

The McNair Program is one of eight federal TRIO programs whose ultimate goal is to significantly increase the number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds in higher education. To this end, the McNair Program encourages and prepares such underrepresented students to pursue graduate, non-professional programs leading to doctoral degrees.

**INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS**

Thursday, September 29, 2011 at 3:30pm in SUB 3200  
 Monday, October 10, 2011 at 3pm in SUB 3000

**Program Benefits**

- Academic advising
- Faculty mentoring
- Paid research internships
- Presentation opportunities at conferences
- GRE preparation
- Graduate school visits
- Graduate school application assistance

**Program Success**

Truman received its first McNair grant in 1992 and has since operated an exemplary program.

- 145 Scholars have earned Masters degrees
- 31 Scholars are currently enrolled in a Masters program
- 28 Scholars have earned Doctoral degrees
- 39 Scholars are currently enrolled in a Doctoral program

**Eligibility**

To be eligible for program participation, an applicant must be

1. a low-income\*, first-generation college student\*\* or an individual from an underrepresented group in graduate education (African-American, Alaskan Native, American Indian, Hispanic American, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander) **AND**
2. a full-time student at Truman State University with at least sophomore status;
3. a United States citizen or permanent resident, a permanent resident of Guam/Northern Mariana Islands/Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, or a resident of one of the Freely Associated States; **AND**
4. a student with a strong desire to pursue a doctoral degree.

**The deadline to submit McNair applications is November 1st.**

To apply, visit <http://mcnair.truman.edu>  
 Call Sarah Hass at 660-785-5393 for more information.

\*An individual from a family whose taxable income for the preceding year did not exceed 150% of an amount equal to the poverty level as determined by using criteria established by the Bureau of Census. The Federal Low-Income Levels are updated each year: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/incomelevels.html>

\*\*A student neither of whose natural or adoptive parents received a baccalaureate degree; or a student who, prior to the age of 18, regularly resided with and received support from only one parent, and whose supporting parent did not receive a baccalaureate degree.

The McNair Program is partially funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and with matching funds from Truman State University.

# Renewable Energy Summit

Hosted by Representative Zachary Wyatt

September 30, 2011

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

1 p.m.- 3 p.m.

In the  
**Truman State University  
 Student Union Building**

Speakers and elected officials  
 will be discussing the issues  
 facing our state in regards  
 to renewable energy.

**Former Lieutenant Governor,  
 Joe Maxwell**

**will be delivering  
 opening remarks.**