



Emily Battmer/Index

Junior Andrew King sings a solo with True Men during their winter concert this December in Baldwin Auditorium. The all male a capella group recently performed at the International Championship of Collegiate A Capella, which is the contest featured in the movie "Pitch Perfect."

# True Men competes at contest

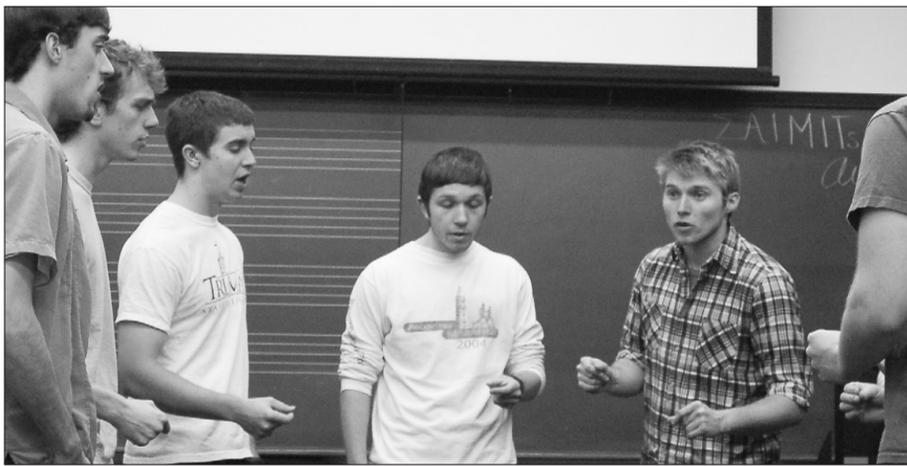
BY ANNA SELLE  
Staff Reporter

The concept of competing in a multi-regional a capella competition on stage and in front of hundreds of people might seem like an invention of the cinematic realm, only to be lived out vicariously through films like "Pitch Perfect." However, for True Men, Truman State's all-male a capella group, such a scenario is a reality every other year at the International Championship of Collegiate A Capella.

True Men competed at the quarterfinals of the I.C.C.A.s Feb. 9 at Washington University in St. Louis, junior True Men member Nicholas Sutherland said.

Sutherland said the competition begins when the different performance groups draw numbers from a hat to establish the order of their performances and sound checks. When their turn comes for a sound check, they have 10 minutes to check microphones, preset sound levels for the performance and practice whatever they have time for from their 12-minute set.

"It's definitely dramatized as far as the atmosphere [in the



Adam Antor/Index

True Men members practice Sunday in Ophelia Parrish for the International Championship of Collegiate A Capella. The group performs at the competition every other year.

movie]," Sutherland said. "But the competition they compete in is the competition we do in real life and the process they go through is the same process we go through."

Graduate student Chris Thomas has participated at I.C.C.A. three times since joining the True Men.

"It was a great experience,"

Thomas said. "It's always a learning process. You see so many other groups and take in what they're doing, but you also perform yourself and get feedback. The coolest part about it is the bonding and the closeness and the hard work the group goes through leading up to the competition, and that makes it worth it even if we don't move

on or place or do well."

Thomas has taken a position within the group as a composer of their pieces.

"I always think, first of all, is this something that will translate to a capella?" Thomas said. "Some songs have really intricate rhythms and parts that won't translate well to voices because voices are limited."

Thomas said he also takes into account what the guys are interested in singing and what the audience is interested in hearing. Pop songs often work because they're popular and new, but he said the group often tries to get songs that are a little more obscure and fit well with their voices.

While True Men did not walk away from the competition with a win or with advancing to the semi-finals, sophomore Trevor Wood, first-year True Men member, was awarded for his individual abilities on the team at the competition. Individual members could be awarded for aspects of their performances like choreography and soloing.

"I thought we did really well, we got beat by some really good groups," Wood said. "My individual award was for best outstanding vocal percussion, for the whole set. They don't always award that, but I guess they thought it was merited."

True Men will continue to compete at I.C.C.A. every other year, along with other a capella groups at Truman, in hopes of getting the opportunity to advance to the final round in New York City.

# Physical Plant cuts energy costs

BY CHRIS BROWN  
Staff Reporter

Despite increased utility costs and budget cuts during the last few years, Truman State has been able to stay within budget for all utilities because of the ongoing efforts of the Physical Plant to increase campus energy and water efficiency, said Tim Baker, Physical Plant Assistant Director.

Baker said ongoing efforts including light bulb upgrades, boiler system improvements, a more economical steam system and more efficient chilled water distribution have been reducing the amount of energy and water used on campus and, as a result, have been keeping the University's utility costs lower.

"Utilities is by far the biggest chunk of the budget, it's millions of dollars annually," Physical Plant Director Karl Schneider said.

One way Truman is trying to save energy and cut costs is by replacing many of the light bulbs throughout Pickler Memorial Library and other academic buildings with new, energy-efficient bulbs, Baker said. He said the new bulbs, called T-8s, are about 37 percent more efficient than the older T-12 models used before. He said the Physical Plant steadily has been replacing the bulbs and will continue to do so as a method of reducing the University's energy consumption and costs.

Most newer, more efficient lights are more expensive, Baker said. He said if the bulbs themselves are too expensive, it's not cost-effective for the University to use them, even with the decrease of energy costs resulting from the new bulbs. The T-8s became affordable enough to make using them worth-while, but Baker hopes new, more energy-efficient bulbs will be

come available and affordable as technology continues to improve the quality and efficiency of fluorescent lights.

"We hope that as the demand for these newer, more efficient lighting systems increases, the price will go down and we will be able to afford more energy-efficient lights for the whole campus," Baker said.

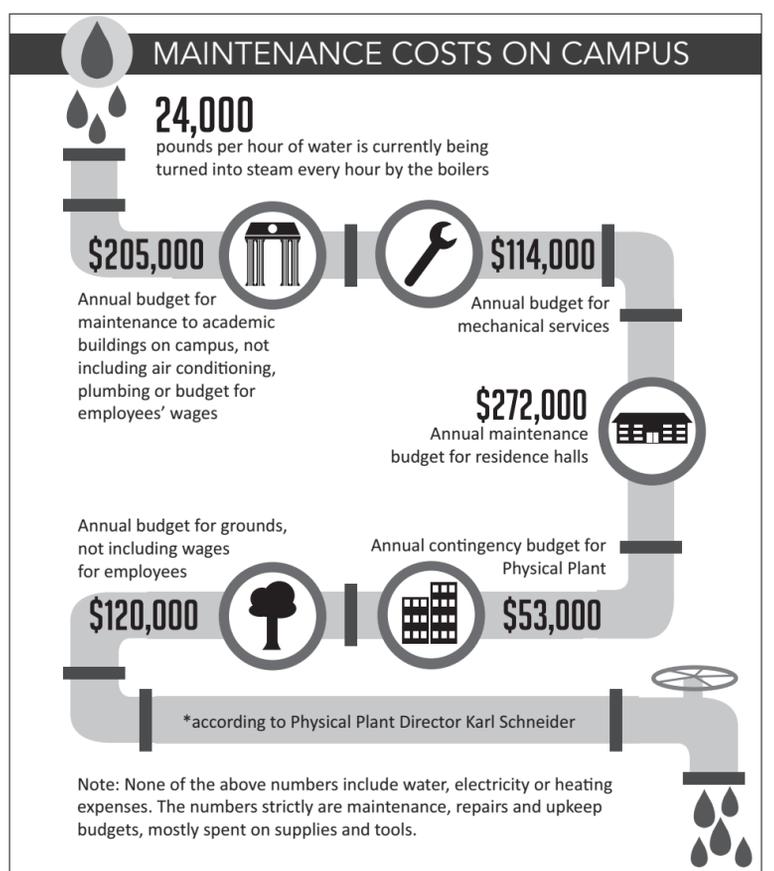
Another resource-saving strategy for Truman has been to upgrade the boiler system, which heats the buildings across campus by supplying hot steam through pipes underneath many of the sidewalks, Baker said. He said these upgrades are designed to make Truman's boiler system run more efficiently, delivering the same amount of energy, but using less fuel. Baker also said one important aspect of the boiler system is the condensate re-use system, which re-uses water that would otherwise have been wasted.

Because of these improvements, Baker said, Truman saves 13,000 gallons of water every day that would otherwise be lost due to leakage or draining.

Campus Architect Mark Schultz said in addition to improving the boiler and steam systems, the University continually is working to improve the efficiency of the chilled water system, which provides cold water to academic buildings and residence halls, primarily for air conditioning.

Schultz said the current system is inefficient because separate buildings have their own chiller systems, which constantly run. He said because most buildings are unoccupied during the day, the chillers are running inefficiently.

Schultz said his solution to this inefficient system would be to have one chilled water loop, which would provide chilled water to every building on campus. He said this system would send chilled water from one large chiller unit



that would run at maximum efficiency output as needed. He said this central unit would supply cold water to wherever it needed to be on campus at whatever time, thus wasting less energy than the current system.

Schultz said Truman already has started to improve the chilled water system in certain parts of campus. Schultz said Magruder Hall is being set up to supply all of the chilled water for Centennial Hall. He said Magruder was outfitted with two chiller units that produced nearly twice as much cold water as was needed for the building, so they decided to build

a pipe from Magruder to Centennial, whose chilled water system currently is unoperational. Schultz said this new two-building chiller system provides plenty of cold water for both buildings and uses less energy than if each building had its own chiller system.

Schultz said he realizes the costs associated with updating the University's chilled water system, but he is optimistic that the success of the Margruder-Centennial system will convince University officials that the chilled loop system will waste less energy and be more cost-effective.