

From the *desk*
of the *Editor*

The Buzz app combines TMN and USA Today

USA Today released a new app, called "The Buzz: Truman State University," Aug. 25. The free app combines coverage of national and world news, along with the latest coverage from the Truman Media Network. This app is a crucial step forward in presenting news in an attractive format for collegiate consumers and we, the Index Editorial Board, are excited for the possibilities it will bring.

First, and definitely foremost, is the opportunity for increased readership the app presents. Although all the content from the Index and TMN is combined on TMN's website, The Buzz offers another way for students to access our content.

The Buzz also is an important move toward the format consumers prefer for getting their news. Fifty-six percent of respondents to a national poll reported that they used their cell phones to access news, a number which likely has grown even more since those survey results were released, according to a 2014 survey from the American press institute. An app provides a quick and concise way for people to access local and national news. As consumers become more invested in social media and continue to use their cell phones for news updates, an app becomes a more viable option in a climate where available time to read the news is at a premium.

We, the Index Editorial Board, hope this new app will be used by students and alumni alike, not only to read the content we at TMN work hard to produce, but also to remain well-informed about what is happening at national and international levels. A healthy democracy is only as good as the sum of its parts, and an informed citizenry is an important step toward creating one.

Participate in the political process



UmmeKulsoom Arif
Opinions Editor

Today, Sept. 17, Truman State will attempt to participate in the nation's largest group reading of the Preamble, and portions from the Declaration of Independence to celebrate the 228th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. The event will begin at 5 p.m. around the flagpole on the north side of The Quad.

I invite you all to attend this event, take the time to listen to the speakers and participate in the reading. While the government may seem like a media circus now, it's important to remember the principles it was founded on and to participate in the civic process. While attending a fun event like this might seem like a small step, it's important to reignite interest in the political process.

I know it's easy to lose faith in the political process and to think you don't matter when it comes to politics, but that's not true. One person can make a difference. You are part of a community of passionate, dedicated individuals who all deserve to have a voice in the political process. Imagine what all of you can do if you band together.

I invite you to attend more events like these, to get involved in civic events and to build your interest in current affairs. Elections are just around the corner — not only are the presidential primaries fast approaching but Student Senate elections are Sept. 21-23 — and these events are a prime way to get informed and stay informed. You can make all the difference.

UmmeKulsoom Arif is a senior justice systems major from St. Louis, Mo.

Interfaith Center

at Truman State University

Open House

Friday, Sept. 18

Kirk Building 116

What does it take to be offended?

1:00 p.m.: Viewing/pizza & beverages

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.: Topic discussion led

by Prof. Dereck Daschke

2:30 p.m.: Viewing/pizza & beverages

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.: Topic discussion led by

Prof. Mark Appold

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.: Viewing/pizza & beverages

Space is limited to first 20 people for the discussions.

Sponsored by Student Affairs and the Office of Citizenship and Community Standards

Interfaith Center has grand opening

Guest Column



Maha Mohamed

This past summer, Truman's campus went through quite a few changes, from the reconstruction of The Mall to the changes in meal plans to the newly implemented tobacco-free policy. Among these changes is the remodeling and modification of the Interfaith Center, which is located in Kirk Building 116.

If you walked past this room last semester, you would have looked into a grey room with not much life in it — an empty space where people came, did what they needed to do and left. However, all of that has changed now. Members of the Student Affairs Office worked extensively this summer to revamp the center, changing it from a simple room to a spiritual refuge. First, new furniture and décor was brought in to give a cozy and warm feel to visitors. Chairs, study tables, a couch and even a water fountain were all added with students, faculty and the curious in mind. Second, extensive research went into the new center. Background information and facts about every faith and belief system one can think of are published on the four walls of the IFC. A library was also added to the IFC, so people who are curious or conducting research can come in and check out books about the faiths of the world. A new addition, too, is the student worker you will often see in the IFC. These students are available to answer any and all questions people may have about the IFC, and also to take reservations for any religious or nonreligious organization that wishes to book the space for meetings and/or events.

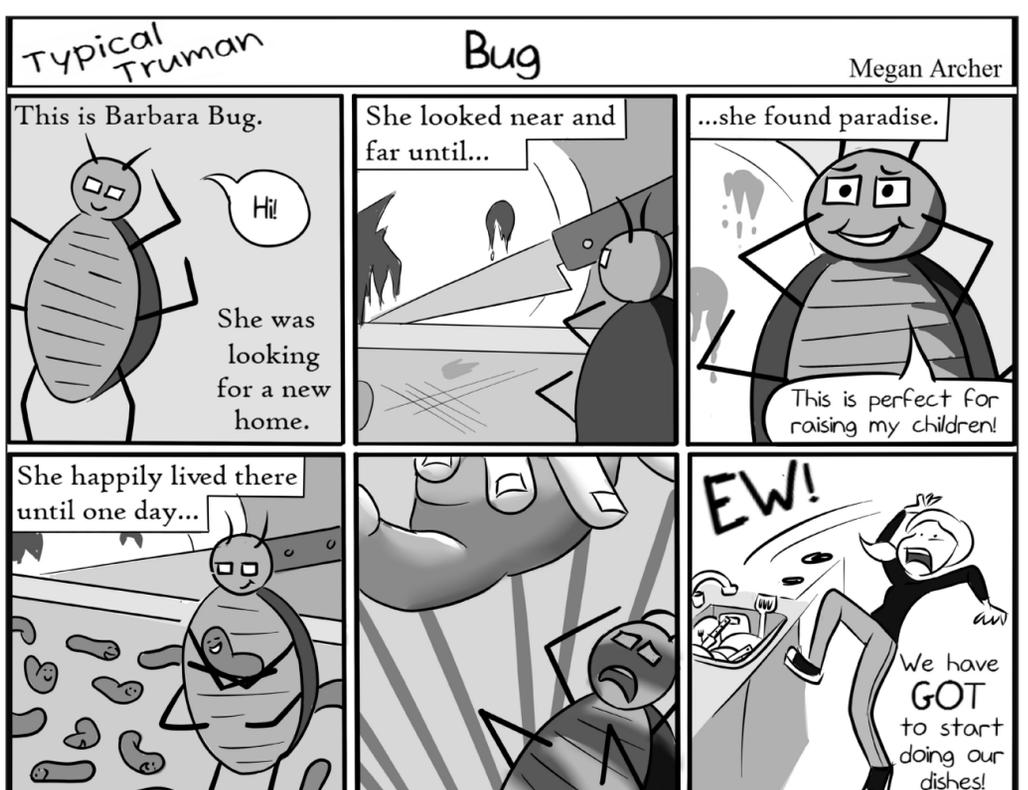
To showcase the handiwork of the Student Affairs team and to reveal the new center to the Truman and Kirksville community, the IFC is hosting a grand opening on Friday, Sept. 18. This much-anticipated and thought-out event will include a viewing, followed by free pizza and beverages, and two one-hour sessions of discussion led by Truman professors in which 20 people can come and discuss the topic of "What does it take to be offended?" This event is free and open to all Truman and Kirksville community members who practice a specific belief, two, three or none.

The goal of the IFC is to open up discussion and exchange ideas and thoughts. It is also a place for people to go to and feel safe to fulfill any religious obligation they may have. It also fulfills the duty of giving people free resources and a space to accomplish whatever they need to accomplish.

Finally, the goal of the IFC at Truman State is to accept and satisfy the President's Interfaith and Cooperation and Community Service Campus Challenge. Since his inauguration, President Barack Obama has placed a great deal of emphasis on interfaith cooperation and community service because it builds mutual understanding, and shatters misconceptions and stereotypes. It also helps contribute to a common goal. The challenge includes people from different religious and non-religious backgrounds joining together to tackle community challenges and issues together while simultaneously building social civility. Institutions of higher education across the nation, including Truman, have accepted this challenge. Truman has joined the movement and is helping solidify the idea of interfaith cooperation and service.

This Friday, the IFC team would like to see everyone who is interested in joining this challenge stop by the Interfaith Center in Kirk Building 116 to sign the pledge, help inform and get informed.

Maha Mohamed is sophomore health science major from Kansas City, Mo.



Editorial Policy

The Index is published Thursdays during the academic year by students at Truman State University, Kirksville, MO 63501. The production offices are located in Barnett Hall. We can be reached by phone at 660-785-4449. The Index is a designated public forum, and content of the Index is the responsibility of the Index staff. The editor-in-chief consults with the staff and adviser but ultimately is responsible for all decisions. Opinions of Index columnists are not necessarily representative of the opinions of the staff or the newspaper. Our View editorials represent the view of the Editorial Board through a majority vote. The Editorial Board consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor and opinions editor. The Index reserves the right to edit submitted material because of space limitations, repetitive subject matter, libelous content or any other reason the editor-in-chief deems appropriate. Submitted material includes advertisements and letters to the editor.

Letters Policy

The Index welcomes letters to the editor from the University community. Letters to the editor are due by noon the Monday before publication and become property of the Index. Submissions are subject to editing, must contain a well-developed theme and cannot exceed 500 words except at the discretion of the Editorial Board. Letters containing personal attacks will not be published. All letters to the editor must be typed and submitted by e-mail to index.opinionseditor@gmail.com or at <http://tmn.truman.edu/theindex>. Include the words "letter to the editor" in the subject line of the e-mail. The Index does not publish anonymous letters to the editor. No individual may submit more than one letter per week.

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