



Nick Corich/Index

Pungo Jungo is a new store located on the square that provides unique novelty items.

New novelty shop spices up Square

Aaron Eidson
for the Index

One new entrepreneur has made it his business to add some spice to Kirksville.

Owner Louie Keen, a native of St. Roberts, Mo., opened his new store, Pungo Jungo, the day after Thanksgiving.

The store offers many novelty items that cannot be found anywhere else in Kirksville, Keen said.

From many kinds of swords and daggers, to lava lamps and "Shut the Hell Up" chewing gum, the store covers an array of interests.

The name Pungo Jungo itself is unique, but Keen didn't say much about its origin.

"It took a lot of dirt roads and Grateful Dead to come up with it," Keen said.

He also said he hopes the name will help attract the target age group for the store, which is 14- to 30-year-olds.

"The things here are ones that you would find at a Spencer's Gifts, or kind of like a Cool Stuff down in Columbia," Keen said. "We have a

goth section that is like a Hot Topic at the mall, so a little bit of everything for everybody."

He said he chose Kirksville as a location because of the lack of competition and the demand for novelty products.

So far, customer response has been positive, Keen said.

"A lot of the comments we get is how reasonably priced everything is, we have a lot of fabulous swords and the prices are a lot less than what other places charge for similar," Keen said.

Even though the store only has been open a short while, some students have found their way to its location.

Senior Lindsay Ferguson said she thinks Pungo Jungo adds something to the town that was missing before.

"The city needed a novelty store that people could walk into without being embarrassed about it and comfortable enough to enjoy the visit," Ferguson said. "It's really a cool store."

Senior Nick Buschhorn said he had no problem finding the store because word spread fast

after it opened.

"I am a huge 'Kill Bill' fan, so I had to come check out their collection of swords, and I was impressed," Buschhorn said. "Though once I was able to drag myself away from the swords, I saw that they had a lot of other cool stuff too."

Although the success of Pungo Jungo is what Keen is looking toward now, he said his goals extend much further.

"I have also bought the Traveler's Hotel and the Lawson Hill building," Keen said. "So I am opening a lot of different stores and restaurants and bars."

Keen said he wants to make Kirksville a college town that students can look forward to living in because they know there will be enough to keep them entertained.

"I know a lot of college students who leave after their first year here because they say the downtown area is no fun," Keen said. "I am going to make it so college students want to come to college here because of how fun it is."

Presentation shows University's history of assessment

Katie Curry
for the Index

As much as students might dislike it, Truman wouldn't quite be what it is today without assessment.

Last Tuesday, senior Marcie Kottemann presented her research project detailing the history of assessment at Truman to about 20 faculty, administrators and students as part of the assessment colloquia series that has been running since spring 2004.

"I'm a history major, and since I had been working with assessment, I was really interested in where all these came from and why we were doing it," Kottemann said.

She discussed major points at Tuesday's presentation, in-

cluding how assessment began at Truman with Charles McClain's presidency, how the national move toward collegiate assessment changed Truman and the costs and benefits of using assessment.

"Charles McClain was definitely the person who brought this mentality that we need to examine what we are doing and focus on student learning and quality of education," Kottemann said.

She said McClain and Darrell Krueger, his dean on instruction at the time, set forth to evaluate the quality of the programs, and they were

able to get faculty and staff dedicated to this mission.

"They would just walk down the hall and ask members of faculty what they thought about student learning and constantly be having these conversations with faculty and staff," Kottemann said. "Because of their involvement, I think it really moved assessment from the top down and got everyone excited about it."

Kottemann said this sentiment quickly became an important feature of the University.

"Assessment was something

that was a rallying point for a lot of faculty and staff for the majority of the institution especially in the '70s and '80s," Kottemann said. "It was part of what made us so focused on quality and making us want to change the mission."

Kottemann said the object of her study was to understand why assessment at Truman turned out how it did, to re-examine what assessment is like today and to compare the two to determine goals for the future.

A part of Kottemann's presentation dealt with ways in which Truman's assessment program could improve, however.

Kottemann also said it seems less reflection on assessment results takes place now than when McClain was president because of the national focus on results

and quantitative data.

"McClain was focused on improving all the programs through voluntary tests, but by the late '80s, everything became more of a national requirement," Kottemann said. "As assessment requirements became imposed from the outside, I think we stopped reflecting on the data so much, and it became more of a task."

The presentation was one of the assessment colloquia that are part of Truman's ongoing assessment program, said Erika Woehlk, staff assistant to the vice president of academic affairs.

She said the ultimate goal of the colloquium was to pass on information about assessment to the faculty and students so it could be used to improve teaching and learning at the University.

Julie Lochbaum, director for the Center for Teaching and Learning, which co-sponsored the assessment colloquia, said she was excited to see Tuesday's presentation.

Lochbaum said she found the topic of the history of assessment especially pertinent.

"I just find it essential, like breathe in, breathe out," Lochbaum said. "How can you know what you are doing unless you are assessing?"

Junior Kristen Johnson, who attended the colloquium, said she was impressed at how well Kottemann's project was researched.

"I didn't realize this much assessment was going on at Truman," Johnson said. "I think her presentation will only better the University."

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