

# Students work to bring independent films to Kirksville

BY DIANE POELKER  
Assistant News Editor

Kirksville's independent film scene might begin to roll tape thanks to two Truman students.

Sophomore Andrew Turner and senior Micah Gall are taking action to bring independent films to Kirksville. Late last semester, the two men took a trip to Columbia, Mo., seeking unusual films, which sparked the idea.

"We went down to Columbia to watch 'Before the Devil Knows You're Dead' and 'Lars and the Real Girl' [at the Ragtag theater]," Turner said. "We really enjoyed the atmosphere there. ... [We thought] we could get some movies and see if it could be workable [in Kirksville]."

Turner said he and Gall have begun their investigation by gauging interest on campus and looking for funding. Turner said he has been in contact with the American Marketing Association to conduct a survey of the local population. He said he hopes having concrete data like a survey will help secure financing for the project.

"Our biggest hurdle is money," Gall said. "We talked to the small business office about getting grants. ... We've looked up stuff on the Internet about the big film festivals ... a lot of those places donate money or have grants to get independent theaters running."

Turner said he hopes to have a trial run as early as next fall, adding that ideally, the project would partner with Columbia's Ragtag to obtain the films and the Kirksville Arts Association

temporarily would house the screenings. Turner recently contacted Ragtag management member David Wilson and received what Gall described in an e-mail as an encouraging response.

"I'd be happy to talk with you," Wilson said in the e-mail.

However, members of the Kirksville Arts Association responded less enthusiastically. Director Judy Neuweg said members of the community, including Turner and Gall, have approached the KAA in the past about housing an independent theater, but the association has limited resources.

"Right now, because of our space, we're kind of limited," Neuweg said. "We've considered it before, and it's in our long-term plans."

In beginning their project, Turner and Gall also have approached Truman faculty and administration seeking advice and support. Turner said he thinks bringing an independent theater to Kirksville could be one solution to some of Truman's image problems pointed out by the Art and Science study (see Jan. 31 issue of the Index).

"[The independent theater idea] could get in on the conversation ... with the Art and Science survey ... about something that could give Truman students something to do," Turner said. "There is [also] some interest

for a film minor and major that could be housed in this independent theater idea."

Gall said he has a strong interest in adding a film major to Truman's curriculum. He is studying science fiction film with Robert Mielke, professor of English, but the experience isn't what it should be, he said.

"Right now, for film class – I love film class – but we watch

it on a basic TV," Gall said. "It's not quite the experience of what film should be in my opinion. ... If I would have had the opportunities [for a film major or minor] I would have loved it."

Mielke said he has discussed the possibility of creating an independent theater with Turner and Gall, but he doesn't know if Kirksville is ready to make the leap.

"I think having an independent theater would be great, as a lover of film," Mielke said. "[But] I think people have crunched the numbers in the past, and it hasn't been feasible."

Mielke said that in the past, one of the setbacks to screening independent films in Kirksville is that the local theater, Downtown Cinema 8, doesn't own the right kind of screen.

"One of the things that is unusual is that we don't have an art screen," Mielke said. "If these guys get this thing up and running, it might force the Cinema 8 to do something it should be doing all along."

**"Our biggest hurdle is money."**

**Micah Gall**

Senior and Supporter of an Independent Movie Theater in Kirksville



Mark Hardy/Index  
Sophomore Andrew Turner and senior Micah Gall are spearheading efforts to bring an independent theater to Kirksville. It might be housed temporarily in the Kirksville Arts Association.

# ITS weighs e-mail options, plans for updated TruView

Some students will test drive new version of TruView during summer

BY HEATHER TURNER  
Staff Reporter

Faced with the growing number of uses for student e-mail accounts, some colleges are opting to go the corporate route.

Todd Kuhns, technical information director at Information Technology Services, said the University signed up with Microsoft Live more than a year ago, about the same time the University of Missouri-Columbia began looking into the program. He said that if the decision were made to change over to the Microsoft platform, the program would most likely be test piloted with alumni e-mail first.

"It's getting to be more and more difficult to handle not just student e-mail, but alumni e-mail," Kuhns said. "One thing that schools are starting to offer now is e-mail for life."

He said this is something the University currently is unable to do. If Truman does decide to outsource student e-mail services in the future, Kuhns said the current policies would remain, including the requirements for password changes on accounts every 180 days.

Although there are no plans to test a Windows Live platform at this time, some students will get to test drive a new version of TruView that comes out this summer.

Kuhns said the new version will feature a rich text editor for e-mails. If the program tests well, it will be available for students in the fall.

However, in the meantime, colleges continue to weigh their options.

"I think it's natural for universities to move in this direction because managing student e-mail, especially if ... students want to keep their e-mail addresses as they move on, ... gets to be beyond the abilities and scope from a technical and money standpoint [of what] universities can reasonably maintain," Kuhns said. "So I think that's why a lot of universities are looking at the options for their student e-mail."

A little more than a year ago, Missouri State University and Mizzou began considering whether to switch student e-mail accounts to a Microsoft platform. Currently Mizzou is pilot testing Windows Live@edu with a small number of students.

At Missouri State, several options are on the table but testing has not yet begun.

At Truman, some interest has circulated within the Advancement office. Denise Smith, director of alumni relations, said many alumni want to keep Truman e-mail addresses.

"There's ... all types of companies out there, but we're looking for something that's secure, that has all sorts of safety features, but is easy to navigate and that's usable," Smith said.

Privacy issues, cost efficiency and the available space of e-mail accounts all are issues universities are considering as more institutions switch to out-

sourcing their services to Google Education Solution and Windows Live@edu. More than 1,000 colleges have made the switch, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education. Other institutions are considering the idea to meet student demands.

Matt Farwell, assistant executive director of ITS, said that through private technical forum e-mail lists, representatives from various schools across the nation are inquiring about the feasibility of switching to professional services. They want to know the nuts and bolts of the technical aspects of such a project, he said.

"People are looking just for help to know, is it easy or is it hard?" Farwell said. "Is it going to take me a day or weeks to do the programming? Is it possible even to get it all put together?"

TruView accounts are private, meaning no information from e-mails can be viewed by another student or third party, Farwell said. The current system operates using software licensed through Sungard Higher Education.

"Anything that ever had student data [or] student numbers is either destroyed before it leaves, shredded, you know," Farwell said.

Yet issues of space arise because many student accounts offer less than one gigabyte of storage space. TruView allots 35 megabytes of space for e-mail accounts, Farwell said.

With more than 18,800 users who are able to log in to the Tru-

View system, the servers are strained at times. The slowness of the network was a recurring complaint from students who responded to the 2007 ITS student survey. Sixty-two percent of students said they always use TruView for e-mail services, according to the survey. Additional storage space is one of the perks of switching to corporate providers, adding to the allure for universities considering the options.

Pat Day, coordinator of operations and systems at Missouri State, said outsourcing student e-mail accounts would help alumni who want to keep their e-mail accounts.

Missouri State's 15 servers currently handle about 25,000 student and faculty accounts, Day said. He said the current system will become more costly in two to four years due to the demand.

"We haven't found a solution yet for our alumni ... so that they can continue with the e-mail account they've had through college, you know, the

one they're used to," Day said.

He said Missouri State has looked at switching to a Microsoft platform because it offers more space and is cost effective. He said there is no charge for the service as long as students are active members at the university.

"Once you graduate from the university, that's when your e-mail starts getting messages in it at that point in time," Day said. "That's where they plan on making their money."

He said the University is also considering options other companies have to offer, including the addition of new software.

Day said the advantage to operating the platform locally is that the services can be tailored to student needs.

Another technical hurdle officials at the University of Missouri in Columbia are working around is the lack of access to a global address catalogue, spokesman for the Division of Information Technology, Terry Robb said.

He also said that a small group of students are testing e-mail services through the Windows Live @edu platform.

"Private systems have a global address catalogue," Robb said. "You can punch it up and find anyone on the four campuses."

He said that there are currently no plans to make the switch at the University, although a switch to the Windows Live @edu platform is underway at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

**"It's getting to be more and more difficult to handle not just student e-mail, but alumni e-mail. One thing that schools are starting to offer now is e-mail for life."**

**Todd Kuhns**

Technical Information Director for Information Technology Services

## Charlie Parr "Folksongs: A Demonstration and Discussion"

Friday, Feb. 15, 1:30 p.m.  
SUB Down Under

Charlie Parr, folk and country blues musician from Duluth, Minnesota, has performed in the UK, Ireland, Scotland, appeared on Prairie Home Companion, and produced several successful CDs. A high school dropout who eventually earned his college degree in philosophy, Parr grew up in an active and activist folk musician family.

The sources of his songs include that tradition, honed by working with some of the country's greatest folk artists. His discussion and demonstration on Friday afternoon is one of four sessions sponsored by IDS 300, the Folklore Minor, and Interdisciplinary Studies. All IDS 300 sessions are free and open to the public.

Parr will also be giving a concert Friday evening at the Dukum.

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