

Historic site used for shop

BY CHRIS BONING
Staff Reporter

Only the incongruence of a jewelry counter and racks of clothing for sale paired with an ornate balcony and a brightly lit proscenium betrays the historical significance of Sieren's Palace, or rather, the building in which it is situated.

Sieren's Palace, located at 202 S. Franklin, once was the site of the Princess Theater, which was built in 1916 and specialized at various times in silent films, second-run movies and local acts. After its brief existence as a fabric store in the early 1970s, the building since has been the home of Sieren's Palace for more than 30 years.

Herb Sieren, owner of Sieren's Palace, said that during the 1970s he was interested in getting into retail after having worked for a clothing manufacturer in Kansas City.

"I found this location, and I just loved the building," he said.

Sieren said he likes the building because of its age and the beautiful handmade architecture in the interior. He

added that many people have come into the store recalling the time they spent at the Princess Theater.

"A lot of them come in and say, 'Oh, I used to go to the movies here,'" Sieren said. "I say, 'Well, you're telling your age here now.'"

Sieren said that although he is aware of the city's newly formed Historic Preservation Commission, he has not approached the group about having the building recognized as a historic landmark because he might be relocating his business and currently is talking to a potential buyer for the property.

Brad Selby, Kirksville's codes and planning director, said the Preservation Commission is just now in the final stages of getting approval for an ordinance that would allow the owners of older buildings to submit the names of their properties to the commission for recognition as historic locations.

"We would still do a survey, and we would have a list of those properties that we think ... should be considered historic ... but to be designated as a landmark, it's up to the owner to do that," Selby said.

"It was something that you would expect to see maybe in St. Louis or Kansas City — certainly not Kirksville."

Pat Ellebracht
President of the Adair County Historical Society



Sieren's Palace was built in 1916 and is located at 202 S. Franklin. The building used to be a theater that specialized in silent films, second-run movies and local acts.

Krista Goodman/Index

"We may talk to the owner and say, 'We think you've got a wonderful property. We'd like you to consider nominating it to be a historic property.'"

He said he recalled going to the Princess Theater to see movies as a child and that many people know about the historical significance of the building.

"It certainly has interest," Selby said.

Pat Ellebracht, president of the Adair County Historical Society, said there has been a lot of interest in having the building preserved. He added that the building frequently has been written about in local publications throughout

the decades, in addition to there being several urban legends about it.

"[There] was a story about people being in the balcony and they'd throw stuff down [to the main level]," Ellebracht said. "I heard a story about that — seemed like they threw a cat from the balcony down onto the main floor. If it wasn't that, it was something equally funny."

Ellebracht said he thinks the Sieren's Palace building should be preserved if it's financially feasible. He said the Kennedy Theater, which was much bigger and grander than the Princess, deteriorated and had to be torn down because it

would have cost too much to restore it.

"It was something that you would expect to see maybe in St. Louis or Kansas City, [but] certainly not Kirksville," he said. "The people that built that certainly had visions of grandeur."

He also said the Kirksville Regional Arts Council, a precursor to the Kirksville Arts Association, considered buying the Sieren's Palace building at one time, but eventually opted for its current location at 117 S. Franklin because the space was bigger.

"Since it was such a ... historical building, they thought it would be a good place [to be located]," Ellebracht said.

Students utilize new text-messaging service

BY STEPHANIE HALL
Staff Reporter

Text ChaCha for the score of the Cardinals game, the edibility of stride gum wrappers, or Emilio Estevez's character's name in the "Breakfast Club."

The newest form of informational technology, ChaCha allows users to text any question and receive an answer. Text messaging rates do apply, but the service itself is free. Behind the text service are the guides from all walks of life answering the questions. Junior Emily Fassi has worked as a guide for ChaCha since August.

"My friend worked for them and he would always talk about great it was for him," Fassi said. "[He said] that I should do it because it was an easy job, and so I applied online."

ChaCha guides all specialize in areas of interest to them. Fassi answers definitions of words and science-related questions. She said the specialization started a couple of weeks after she started working for ChaCha.

"I've just recently started to get the questions that actually apply to me," Fassi said.

After a text gets sent to ChaCha, it first goes through expeditors that categorize it and then it gets sent to a guide with that area of expertise, Fassi said. She said that before the specifications took place, she got a lot of weird questions.

"A lot of people ask when the world is going to end," Fassi said. "People ask questions about themselves. I think they just want to know if there's anything about them on the Internet."

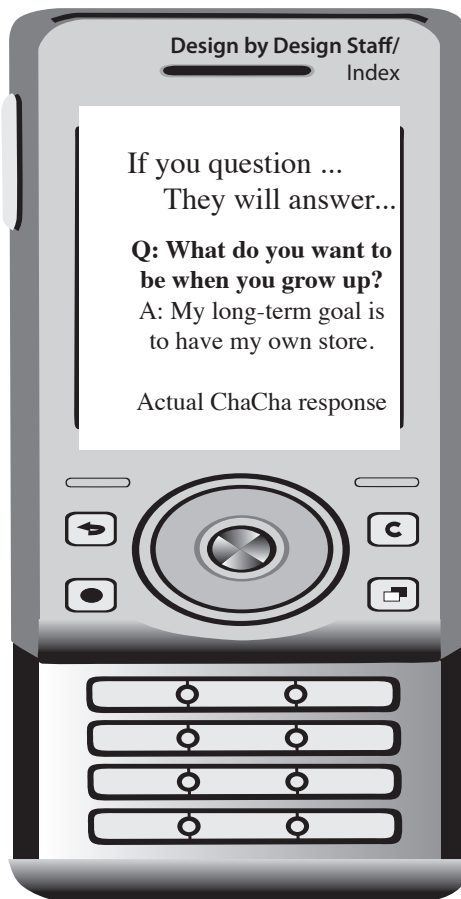
Fassi said that with the new changes she gets more serious question related to her specialties. She said she gets a lot of questions about how to water plants, the solar system and occasionally how to identify a bug bite by its symptoms.

"Some people specialize in relationships, and I don't really like that because it's so subjective," Fassi said. "I like doing the ones where you can find an answer for that person."

When the texts get sent to a specific guide, guides can look up the answer on a specific ChaCha search engine that only has reputable Web sites, Fassi said. From there guides are given unlimited time to answer questions. Fassi said it usually takes her only 30 seconds to a minute to find most answers.

Others, like senior Katie McDonell, just ChaCha for fun. McDonell said a friend told her about it awhile ago and now she uses it all the time.

"I usually use it when I'm in a debate with



someone," McDonell said.

McDonell said she only heard about ChaCha two months ago but that since then she uses it every day. She said she asks really weird things to the guides like what is their favorite movie.

Freshman Sarah Hartford found out about it through a friend during Truman Week and only uses it every so often because she does not have unlimited text messaging.

"Well I heard about it through a friend," Hartford said. "Someone texted me a techno artist name and I had no idea who it was. My friend said to text 242242 and ask it a question and they'll text you back."

She said she's received some interesting responses.

"The weirdest question I've asked was 'what are you thinking?'" Hartford said. "The guide said his prom night, which made me think of some older guy reminiscing about high school."

Shopping goes online

Kirksville's lack of shopping options has students turning to the Web for gifts, necessities

BY CASSANDRA MCCARTY
Staff Reporter

Despite the 24-hour glow of fluorescent lights at Wal-Mart, some students turn to browsing the Internet to conveniently purchase holiday presents for friends and loved ones.

Most students are equipped with the means to navigate the Web and during the holiday season, the lack of shopping opportunities in Kirksville sends students running to their computers.

Although some students choose to travel to larger neighboring cities for their shopping, others rely strictly on their tech-savvy abilities. Freshman Corissa Lennon said she peruses the cyber shops and figures out the ideal time to order presents online.

"I would say, during the beginning of the year, it was probably once every two weeks I would buy something online, which is kind of bad," Lennon said. "But now, I mean, maybe once every month in a half-ish. The biggest thing you have to watch out for is buying it ahead of time enough because during the holiday season a lot of things back up, and then you don't get things shipped on time. I would say probably if you are going to buy a present for Christmas or Hanukkah, you would have buy it in mid-November [or] late November."

Although buying presents online can seem daunting because of time constraints and endless possibilities, Lennon uses a tool to make the shopping experience easier for buying her holiday gifts.

"A really, really nice thing that my family just started this year is Amazon gift wish list," Lennon said. "So Amazon actually has this thing on their Web site where they can link up to your general server, and if there is something you find on another Web site you can just click on the tab that says add to my Amazon wish list, and it automatically sends it back to Amazon, and anybody can search for your wish list and see ... all the things you want."

Although Kirksville is home to numerous

stores, students find that the ease and availability of the Internet is a more convenient source for their holiday shopping list. Junior Leah Kern said it is an activity everybody should try.

"Overall, I say that online shopping is very, very helpful and that I recommend that everyone tries it at least once," Kern said. "You know, throw your trust into the wind. Check the customer ratings, though, and also the products. I always look at the ratings — what people found complaints about. That really helps so that way you know what kind of product you are getting."

Junior Josie Bolanowski said she browses online stores every day and uses eBay as a source for shopping.

"I am mildly addicted to eBay," Bolanowski said. "I think it's fun. Yeah, Kirksville doesn't have a lot, and I am a little bit poor, so I can't afford full-priced things."

Bolanowski said she shops on the Internet because of the deals Web sites offer, and that she has been a regular shopper since before her freshman year.

"I don't even know how long I have been doing this," Bolanowski said. "I mean, I kind of did a little bit back when I was in St. Louis just because there were some good deals that I could find. Then when I came up here it was a lot easier to find things that weren't at Wal-Mart. I mean, they have some good stuff sometimes, but you can't find everything there."

Because local stores do not provide Truman students with all of their holiday needs, Bolanowski said she uses other Web sites such as eBay and Overstock.com to make up for the loss.

"I use eBay because they have everything that you could ever want — the most random stuff ever," Bolanowski said. "I check out Overstock.com a lot just because they have really, really cheap shipping. You can't beat \$2 shipping. ... the items themselves aren't that discounted, I mean they are relatively, but they are still a little pricey for someone in college."

Bolanowski said that although online shopping is fun, she misses going to stores to shop.

"Every time I go home ... I have to go to the mall even if I don't have to buy anything," Bolanowski said. "Just to be there — see clothes in real life and touch things in real life."

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Josie Bolanowski
Senior

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