

# TRU Life

## BROTHERLY LOVE

JoBros release new album much to delight of pre-teen fans

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# TRUMAN, WE CHOOSE YOU!

BY MICHELLE MARTIN  
Staff Reporter

For some, Pokémon died out after elementary school, but the Pokémon League at Truman still is trying to “catch ‘em all.”

Senior Will Stevens was walking around the Square in the spring of 2006 when he saw a sign for a Pokémon League meeting that weekend. He convinced a friend to come with him, and they were immediately hooked, he said.

“When we passed by, it looked like the most ridiculous thing ever and I couldn’t at all pass that up,” Stevens said. “But basically as soon as we got there we realized it was too much fun to just be a joke, and so we were going to keep doing it.”

Indeed, he has been playing in the league ever since, he said. Stevens said the league in Kirksville, where they began playing, became affiliated with Truman last year.

“There are hundreds of cards you can use at any one time,” he said. “You

can buy them in random packs or you can trade other people for the ones you need, and you build a deck of about 60 cards, and the object is to knock out as many of your opponents [as possible] in Pokémon.”

Pokémon has grown during the last 10 years from a marketing ploy into a more sophisticated, strategic card game, he said.

“It’s really matured as a trading card game, instead of just a marketing tie-in,” Stevens said. “It’s interesting. I would have never called it to stay this long or to be as good of a game as it is.”

At the league’s meetings, there’s a laid-back, fun atmosphere and some friendly competition, he said.

“Everyone there is really friendly and is more than willing to teach the rules to somebody and bear with them in their first game,” Stevens said.

Tournaments frequently take place in surrounding cities throughout the year for those who are more competitive, he said.

“I’ve traveled quite a bit,” Stevens said. “[Last year] I was leaving every weekend for two months in a row, from St. Louis to as far north as Ames, Iowa.”

Zach Zamora, senior and the Pokémon League’s treasurer, said he began playing Pokémon again when Stevens did, although he has played on and off for years.

“I’ve been a ‘Poké-maniac’ ever since way back in ‘98 when it just came out,” Zamora said. “It’s kind of a secret vice of mine.”

He said the card game is more complex than it seems on the surface.

“I know that [Pokémon] has celebrated its 10th year as an international franchise this year in February,” Zamora said. “It had four generations of games, ... and each



Seniors Zach Zamora and Will Stevens study their cards at a league night last Friday. The two have been members since 2006.

Mayank Dhungana/Index

one brings a new group of Pokémon into the mix, the object being to ‘catch them all,’ which is really what I aspire to do sometimes.”

Zamora said he thinks many people sentimentally pick up Pokémon years after they played in elementary school.

“Most people come for some sort of nostalgia factor,” he said. “I’m sure most people our age had at least a Pokémon card or a Pokémon game when they were younger so they see this and are like, ‘Oh, this is still going on? I remember playing this.’”

Free prizes are another reason for people to get hooked and keep playing, he said.

“Each game you play and win or

lose, you earn points toward free stuff,” Zamora said. “And the free stuff is usually like a little mini two-pack of cards, but it’s still an incentive to play.”

Zamora said he encourages former players to pick up the game again.

“We would love to have more people come play with us, to get some more fresh faces,” he said. “You can get started really quickly and easily for the most part. You can play for fun, or you can start to see how far the rabbit hole goes.”

Thomas Stewart, assistant professor of linguistics, said the staying power of Pokémon is manifested in the keen effort many players put into playing. “I saw people coming in with packs

of cards that they put a lot of thought and time into preparing,” he said.

Stewart said there are reasons the Pokémon card game has stuck around for as long as it has.

“Unlike other games or activities that have television tie-ins and other popular culture tie-ins, this is a game that is, I think, well imagined,” he said. “There are things that have been tried like that that are just games to make more money. But I think this is something that people actually are taking seriously as a game.”

Pokémon’s strong fantasy element is probably another reason for its appeal, Stewart said. He said the game is well-constructed.

“The game itself is a mix of strategy and chance, plus it has a richly imagined fantasy world,” he said. “So not only is it like playing a game, but there’s also an imaginative element that goes along with it. And so I think that takes it in a different direction than ordinary playing card games.”

## POKÉMANIA

- Pokémon debuted with Red and Pokémon Blue in 1998.
- Pokémon have appeared in over 30 games on a variety of Nintendo systems.
- The Pokémon franchise has sold more than 164 million games worldwide.
- Pokémon Battle Revolution ranks No. five on the list of best-selling Wii games for the year of 1997.

Sources: pokemoneurope.com, pokemon-games.com

Design by Antonette Bedessie/ Index

## Kirksville Bike Co-op runs on students’ initiative

BY ZOE MARTIN  
Assistant Features Editor

Senior Nehemiah Rosell wiped grease from his fingers and nodded reassuringly as he listened to the Kirksville Bike Co-op’s latest customer’s bicycle woes last Friday.

This one had been riding across campus with non-functional brakes. The last had needed a new tire. Several came in to negotiate the prices of rental bikes. This was Rosell’s first day in the shop, and in the hour he had been there, more than a dozen students had wandered in seeking advice.

Rosell is one of about 15 student scholarship workers training to be mechanics at the Bike Co-op, a tiny, red brick outpost of the Multicultural Affairs Center next to Grim Hall.

“It took awhile to get space on campus,” Rosell said. “And then finally after some wrangling with the people in charge and the campus

president [and] deans, they were finally able to get this spot here.”

The grand opening for this incarnation of the Kirksville Bike Co-op took place last March, but the idea for the Co-op was a long time coming, Rosell said. He said it started a few years ago with the Community Sharing Bike Program — the group’s rented yellow bikes could be seen cruising campus in 2005 — and escalated from there.

Last spring, with the help and support of campus organizations like the Student Activities Board, Environmental Campus Organization and the International Club, the Kirksville Bike Co-op became a University-funded program with a permanent on-campus location, its own tools — from specialized chain-link replacement devices to old toothbrushes for cleaning — and an impassioned work force.

The Co-op’s Web site, bikeco-op.truman.edu — which features the shop’s hours and membership

information as well as a link to online chat forums — defines its mission as “cultivating the development, use and promotion of sustainable transportation” and “providing a space where bike culture and knowledge is facilitated through both independent experimentation and collaborative hands-on discovery.”

Rosell said the environmental implications are part of what attracts him to bike transportation, especially at Truman.

“It makes a lot of sense in Kirksville, where you can really bike anywhere because it’s so small,” he said.

As for the “hands-on discovery,” the Co-op won’t be a place for students to drop off rusty bikes and pick them up an hour later, working perfectly.

“It’s a collective,” Rosell said. “It’s a co-op. It’s not like it’s a shop where you pay someone to do it for you. It’s an active process, them learning and us teaching.”

Rosell said his training at the Co-op will consist of more than learning the basics of bike repair. New mechanics will be trained to teach Co-op customers to do the same repairs themselves.

“The point is not to fix it for them,” Rosell said. “But to show



Senior John Estes, a head mechanic at the Co-op, trains senior Nehemiah Rosell at the Co-op’s shop near the Multicultural Affairs Center.

Krista Goodman/Index

## Around the 'Ville

Sept. 12

6 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.  
**SAB Fall Drive-in**  
SAB screens “Iron Man” at 7 p.m. and “Sex and the City” at 9:30 p.m.  
**Baldwin Auditorium**  
Free snacks



Sept. 13

9 a.m. to Noon  
**Food Fest**  
8th Annual NEMO Food Fest showcases locally produced food, demonstrations and samples



Town Square

Sept. 14

5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
**Spicy Meal**  
“Spicy” First Sunday Dinner kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month



Ryle Main Lounge  
Free