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Preachers visit Truman to spread their beliefs

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Skinner said he knows the audience isn't always eager to hear what they have to say, but he maintained that preaching can be effective for their purposes.

"Whether anybody likes it or whether they totally disagree with it and hate the message, people that are walking by ... still hear the words of these different things that we're saying are true," Skinner said. "We just want them to think about it, even if they don't act on it."

He also admitted that the preachers are not capable of changing anyone's mind, whether it be when they're preaching or witnessing one-on-one, but his hope is that these efforts give opportunity for "the Holy Spirit to do a work in somebody," Skinner said.

As a Truman student, Skinner said he experiences some nervousness when he's about to preach, especially around his fellow classmates.

"There's a bit of nervousness," Skinner said. "Like, I'm about to be [in front of] a lot of people at Truman, the school that I go to — people will probably stop liking me. Sometimes people think, 'Oh, that's cool. He has a strong opinion, and he's voicing it.' But primarily people think, 'You're weird.'" But Skinner said it also feels good to preach.

"Whenever I'm saying what I believe and saying it from the heart, it basically ... feels good to get it out," Skinner said. "It's like you know there's a message, a really critical and crucial message burning in my heart. ... Christ died for sinners, and he died for me, and I can't keep it quiet right now."

Skinner said he sees preaching as only a small part of obeying the Bible. He said that someone might preach as much as they want, but without love for God and for other people, that person has nothing. He also said that preaching and acting in love are not independent of each other.

"Preaching is like ... the calling for people to love — to love God and to love other people," Skinner said.

However, that concept doesn't translate to Truman senior Julie Curran.

"Christianity is not a hateful thing, and what they're doing is hateful," Curran said. "Because if you're sitting there, and you're judging other people in public and making a big spectacle that's — they're preaching hate — that's not Christianity."

Curran said that it's good to speak up for a cause, but the sermons at the fountain are more akin to harassment. Not only this, but she said she finds them very offensive because their sermons are contradictory to her beliefs.

"I feel offended because I disagree with everything they say, pretty much," Curran said. "Like, I think they're very anti-women, and they're very, anti-social progress, and that doesn't make very much sense to me."

Curran expressed frustration that this preaching is allowed at a public, government-funded institution.

"I just keep walking by and ignore them," Curran said. "They're lunatics."

Curran and Webb are not alone in ignoring the preachers who treat the fountain as a platform. Preacher Trevor Rudy said Truman students are much less interactive than students at University of Columbia but said he hopes that anyone who disagrees with them confronts him or one of the other preachers.

"Any time you want to sit down and have a cup of coffee with us, go for it," Rudy said. "If you have any questions or disagreements ... you're worth our time."



Photo courtesy of Pickler Memorial Library Special Collections Department

Kirk Building used to be the hot spot on Truman's campus as the center of social life, indoor athletics, academics and a health center. The building was dedicated after President John R. Kirk because it was built during the end of his administration.

Kirk Building alive with history

Historical Places

BY SHANNON WALTER
Staff Reporter

The center of campus is the place to socialize, grab a bite to eat, study and use as a shortcut on the way to class. Currently, this place is the Student Union Building, but years ago Kirk Building filled this role.

Kirk Building was built in 1923 to be the center of social life, indoor athletics, academics and a health center, according to the 1986 Adair County Historic Inventory.

John R. Kirk was president of the University from 1899 to 1925, the longest administration in Uni-

versity history. Special Collections Librarian Elaine Doak said Kirk Building was named after him because it was built at the end of his administration, and he was very important to the University.

"He was here for a long time, and he made a lot of changes," she said. "He took the school from a little normal school to a full-fledged teacher's college, making it a nationally known institution."

At the time Kirk Building was erected, campus was much different. Baldwin Hall, which burned down Jan. 28, 1924, sat where Kirk Memorial and the Sunken Garden currently are. The quad was filled by College Lake, which was drained to stop the fire from spreading in

1924. The Library Building, which sat between the original Baldwin Hall and Kirk Building, also was destroyed in the fire. The library was the University's biggest loss because very few books and historic documents were recovered, according to the Centennial History of the Northeast Missouri State Teachers College by Walter H. Ryle.

"Kirk Building was finished in 1923, and the University fully moved in the January of 1924 when Baldwin burned down," Doak said. "Luckily many of the artifacts that were in Baldwin were moved to Kirk not too long before the fire. Otherwise, we would have lost everything."

To the west of the original Baldwin Hall was Laughlin Science Hall, which suffered a major fire in 1918 but was not hurt in the 1924 fire.

The fire only affected the interior, and the building was repaired and used until it was raised in the 1980s. It is currently the space between Magruder Hall and Pickler Memorial Library.

Kirk Building is the only building still standing from the old campus. When it was built, it was known as Sociability Hall. At the time, there were no residence halls on campus, and Kirk Building was a place for students to relax between classes.

"It was used for a lot of the things that are done over in the SUB now," Doak said. "Receptions and parties were held there. Up in the auditorium, they held everything from dances to basketball games. Over the years, very many departments and divisions have



Photo courtesy of Pickler Memorial Library Special Collections Department. The interior of Kirk Building has been mistaken for a ballroom by Missouri Hall Director Zac Burden. Burden gives many campus tours.

had offices in the building."

When built, there was a cafeteria and dining area for students, the University bookstore was there, locker rooms for the sports teams were there and anything else that needed a home.

Missouri Hall director Zac Burden has been interested in campus history since his first week as a freshman nine years ago. On an evening walk, he said he saw the lights on in Kirk Building illuminating the ornate ceiling of the auditorium, and his curiosity was peaked. He asked his student adviser if there was a beautiful ballroom on the third floor, and her response was, "No, it's a condemned gym." So, Burden immediately sought to learn everything about it.

"If I look back on my love of campus, it was Kirk Building that inspired it," Burden said. "It was great to discover its rich heritage. I'd love to see it not only renovated but restored to splendor."

Burden is famous on campus for his historic tours he gives for faculty, current students, prospective students and alumni. He takes people all

throughout campus, divulging history and interesting stories about alumni, old faculty and ghosts.

"When I give tours to older alumni, they are always upset that Kirk Building is not important to student life anymore," he said.

Burden said that his greatest discovery in Truman's history is the people associated with the school and their passion for the University.

"We think of Truman as something that's always been here," he said. "When you look at the external forces against its founding and mission changes, it's amazing to see the passion of people like John Kirk, Joseph Baldwin and others."

Currently, the building is home to first year advisers, the study abroad office, publications, Upward Bound and several faculty offices. Manager of publications Teresa Wheeler said she has had an office in Kirk for 14 years. Wheeler said it doesn't bother her that it is not the hub of student life anymore.

"I like the quiet in this building," Wheeler said. "It's nice to be in the middle of campus without feeling like I'm in the middle of campus."

Local bands play at benefit concert



BY RUSS BECKMAN
Reviewer

Last Friday, Stand with Haiti, a benefit concert to aid those affected by the recent earthquake, took place at the Journal Printing Building. The concert highlighted three of Kirksville's local bands. Heroes for Ghosts energetically kicked things off, Savage Henry provided a party atmosphere and Deadwood skillfully ended the concert.

Heroes for Ghosts took the stage at 8 p.m. and started the concert. The band enthusiastically played punk music but ultimately lacked the outstanding talent present in the other bands.

The band had a good mix of original songs played between covers. The most creative covers were versions of Queen's "Fat Bottom Girls" and Johnny Cash's "Walk the Line." The band sped up the tempo for their versions, put some pep in the vocals and got the audience to sing and clap along. However, their cover of Blink-182's "All the Small Things" was nowhere near as good. There are only a few people who

can sound good mimicking Blink's vocal sound, and none of them were members of Heroes for Ghosts.

The original songs "How to Set a House on Fire" and "Immature" from the band's upcoming CD were well written and played. Like most of their songs, there was a heavy use of the guitar and bass while the drums kept the beat without many fills or solos. One amusing instrument Heroes used was a special kind of cymbal that sounded like the drummer was hitting a metal trash can lid. The band also ended with two more original songs that were different from the rest of their material. They were heavier and sounded like Avenged Sevenfold. The band performed its original songs well but ultimately lacked originality.

The band showed a good variety within the punk realm, and some of it undoubtedly was better than the rest. Heroes for Ghosts needs to find their specialty and hone in on it.

James Cianciola, assistant professor of communication, is on guitar; Mike Hunsaker on bass and vocals, and Cale Hoffman on drums makes up the band Savage Henry. This band played skillfully and made sure everyone was having a good time.

The band played mostly one-hit-wonder covers. "Tainted Love," originally by Soft Cell, was performed beautifully. The lead singer sounded

just like the original, and the instruments played the short notes with force and a high energy also identical to the original. Another cover played well was Modern English's "Melt with You," which was amusingly dedicated to a blushing girl in the audience. During this song, most of the audience was on their feet singing and dancing, creating a fun environment that carried out for the rest of the concert.

Savage Henry also played an original song named "Passion Play." This song really flowed well from the opening guitar solos to the drum fills in the middle to the end where all of the instruments played perfectly in sync with one another. According to Cianciola, this particular song is personal to the band because it was written in memory of a great friend who passed away. This sentimental feeling was conveyed well, and this was the band's best song.

Throughout the performance, one of the best aspects of the music was Cianciola's performance on the guitar. Influenced by classic rock artists, Cianciola's playing reflected these sounds as he rocked out during his solos. He expertly used distortion to bend his notes, and he also precisely hit notes at high speeds.

The audience loved Savage Henry and after they started packing their instruments away, they were encored

Haiti Benefit Concert
Check out Page 14 for photos of the concert.

back on stage for one final song. This band knows how to have a good time and sound terrific doing it.

After Savage Henry left, there was a 20-minute period preparing the stage for the next band, Deadwood, and much of the audience left. However, those who did missed the best part of the show. Deadwood was clearly the best band at the concert.

Deadwood is a blues band of faculty members Clifton Kreps on guitar and vocals, Ian Lindevald on bass, senior John Hitzel on drums and Kirksville resident Rebecca Murphy on vocals. Adam Yanick who plays the saxophone also is in the band but was sick Friday night. The band usually puts a heavy focus on the guitar and the vocals while the drums and bass take the backseat, playing familiar blues riffs but doing so very well. The vocals were sung just like classic blues artists and reminded the audience of Eric Clapton or early Janis Joplin. It was Kreps who stole the show on guitar though.

Kreps is a blues guitar expert and was not afraid to show it. During two songs Kreps left the stage and walked on top of empty chairs in the audience or waded through audience members who were swing dancing on the dance floor. Two other times, he asked Cianciola to join him on stage where they had a guitar duet during the middle of the song. Both guitarists showed their best tricks at this time — Cianciola successfully played behind his head, and Kreps manipulated the sound of his guitar in the manner of early guitar legend Peter Frampton.

The band showed off their wide repertoire when they asked the audience whether they wanted fast songs or slow songs. Deadwood's best song was an original called "I'm Too White to Play the Blues." This song captivated the audience. Most of the young people were swing dancing. The concert managers rightfully saved the best for last, and it was a great way to end the night.