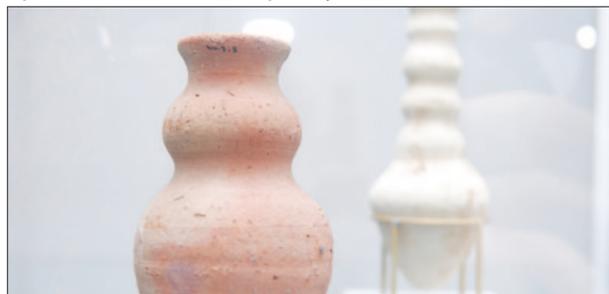


## "Vessels of the Past"

Ophelia Parrish houses new pottery exhibit

PAGE 14



## INSIDE TRULife

COLUMN



### With Love, Anne

7 healthy and beneficial reasons to have sex

PAGE 10

## COMMUNITY



### Red Barn

Demonstration farm built in 1916 for educational purposes is currently used for storage

PAGE 13

## REVIEW



### Avatar

James Cameron's latest film earns rave reviews for presentation

PAGE 12

# "Loni Love's Love Train" comes to Truman

BY CASSANDRA MCCARTY  
Features Editor

Laughter follows comedian Loni Love as she travels across the United States sharing stories and jokes about pop culture, celebrities and relationships. Love has been featured on the Jay Leno Show, where she delivered her conversational routine. She also pokes fun at celebrities when she appears on VH1's *I Love the 70's/80's/90's*.

Love's "Love Train" will be pulling into Baldwin Hall at 7 p.m. Friday. Tickets are \$2 for the general public and free for Truman students. The Index interviewed Love last week to talk about the experiences she has had as a comedian and tips she passes on to aspiring comedians.

**Index:** You grew up in Detroit and attended college in Texas, where you fell in love with comedy and won a contest that gave \$50 to the person who could tell the best story. Why did you decide to enter the contest and can you tell me the winning story?

**Love:** I was in college and broke, so I needed the money, so I made up a story. I don't even remember the story - I just made it up. I was just making up stuff as I was talking, and it was just so funny that it was the best story, and they gave me the \$50. I just needed the \$50 to buy some books.

**Index:** How did comedy eventually become your career?

**L:** When I was working as an engineer, it was fun and exciting, but then there was something when I went to a comedy store, and I saw all of these guys doing comedy, and there was only like one female. I don't even remember who she was, but she was a woman that heard me, and I felt like there was more to being a woman and presenting a woman's point of view. That's when I started getting back into stand-up. I did it through college, but I stopped and so I just started doing it again. I started doing it and I was working during the day, and finally, I got a break. I got into a comedy festival, and once it became overwhelming ... I had to decide whether to keep my day job or leave it, and we were having a layoff at my job, and I felt really bad because I was making money as a comic, and I wanted to help save someone else's position, so I asked them to lay me off, and I took the chance to become a stand-up comedian, and it's worked out ever since.

**Index:** How does it feel to be performing stand-up comedy in front of millions of people? Do you ever worry about not being able to get a laugh from the audience?

**L:** Basically, I have been doing this for so long, and everybody laughs at different things. ... Some comedians try to be the best comedian in the world - I am just trying to entertain people, and I try to entertain them in my way. I think that is what makes me different. What you see on television - it's totally different from what you see when I do live comedy. And the comedy I do for colleges is totally different than what I do for a club. I understand the audiences, and I try to entertain them in that way, and I love doing it, and I don't have any fear. I just get up and do my job.

**Index:** You are called the "Love Train," but where does that name come from, and how does it represent you as a person and a comedian?

**L:** Love Train is that I am going all around the United States on my tour spreading love and laughter to the public. So I just said, "Hey, if you want to get on board, get on board the Love Train." It's a whole movement we are doing right now, and the crowds are coming out. The colleges are great. We have been having a good time. Love Train is not about us getting together or a bunch of hate. There is a difference joking about a person and about certain things they do or jok-



Photo submitted by Loni Love

ing about something that shouldn't be joked about, something that is just mean. ... I try to make a distinction between that. If I am joking about something, it's because it's crazy. What's happening with Tiger Woods should be joked about. It's funny. When people do certain things, bad things, we can joke about it, but just to be mean to somebody - I try not to do that.

**Index:** Did you have any mentors who helped you along the path of becoming a successful comic?

**L:** What I did was actually study people. Not study them for their jokes but study their style. What I do is tell people to look at your favorite comedian and turn off the volume. Don't listen to what they are saying but study their movements, and you could actually see the difference between a comedian that is popular versus a comedian that hasn't necessarily made it because there is a big difference. There is a big difference in just how they express themselves. So what I did when I was coming up, and I still do it - I study the greats. I study Whoopi. I study Richard Pryor. I study George Carlin, and I study a lot of the up and coming, you know, the hot comics. You can always learn something from their style. It takes a lot for a person, for one person to stand up on the stage and say, "I am going to entertain you for an hour, hour and a half." It takes a lot and not to be taken for granted.

**Index:** What kind of style do you think you have created for yourself? What is the Loni Love style?

**L:** My style is I basically talk about me, then I talk about politics, then I talk about celebrities and pop culture, then I talk about relationships. Those are the things I like to talk about, and the thing is that with the pop culture and current events the act never gets old because there is always something happening and somebody will always do something crazy or silly to talk about. I do talk about myself and my own challenges and struggles, and I hope that me talking about myself is going to make people loosen up and realize that whatever problem they are having is not that big of a deal - you will get through it. But my style is very conversational, very easy going, and it's reflective of the type of people that come to my show, I have people that want to laugh.

**Index:** You are coming to Kirksville Friday. Are you excited to perform?

**L:** I heard Kirksville is a long drive, so I expect everybody to come out [to] see me because of this long drive I am taking. I did a college tour last year that was very successful. I love talking to students because they are open-minded and ready to have fun. They are willing to do anything, and it's refreshing to talk to students and entertain them. And I relate to them because I used to be a college student. I know about the Ramen noodles and dropping classes and changing majors. So we have fun, and that's why I say a college show is very different than a club show - because you have to relate to them.

**Index:** Do you have any suggestions for aspiring comedians at Truman?

**L:** Any up-and-coming comics should actually come to my show, and maybe we will do something funny. Get their best joke ready, and let's see what they got. If you are an up-and-coming comic, write as much as you can, and try to perform when you can perform. But the most important thing is to write, and write about yourself. Study other comics, and try to get on stage somewhere.

# New owners create stir in Kirksville

BY HANNAH DOUGLAS  
Staff Reporter

College students don't have many needs, but among them are thirst and hunger. With new additions to The Square, Truman students and Kirksville residents now have more ways to tempt their palates.

### The Greek Corner Gyros

During a trip to Greece, Eltiniki Laberis, daughter and worker of the family business, who is 100 percent Greek, said she learned a lot about Greek culture, the family-oriented nightlife and especially the value of tradition.

She said she has seen how prominent tradition is in her family, mentioning her parents, who moved from Greece to Chicago when they were younger.

"Being born there [Greece] and growing up there, everything they do is tradition," she said. "It's hard to break tradition with Greeks, let me tell you."

Now, she helps her parents continue the tradition at The Greek Corner Gyros after she is done with work at her full-time job. The Greek Corner Gyro is located at 301 S. Franklin.

Laberis said they used to live in Chicago and her father often would drive to Kirksville to hunt.

"We had a restaurant in Chicago, then moved here [Kirksville] about 15 years



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Drew Kramer, owner of Mocha Hut, said coffee has always been a hobby for him, but now he and his wife have opened their own store.

ago and have wanted to open a restaurant ever since," she said.

Once they found the right location in October, they prepared for opening day, Jan. 2.

"The day we opened there were people

waiting in the parking lot," Laberis said. "We've been busy ever since."

Even though they all are worn out, she said they find a way to entertain customers - particularly her dad, Stelianos Laberis, whom everyone calls Steve.

"He has a very strong Greek accent and a loud voice," she said. "It sounds like he's always yelling at you. He'll actually go out and talk to customers, and he'll say something totally serious and they'll just laugh because of the accent."

They like to include the whole family in the business as well, Laberis said.

"We have a little brother who's 10," she said. "He'll come here and hang out, play on the computer, but we like to make him our busboy."

Laberis said the gyros served in The Greek Corner Gyros are very similar to the ones she had in Greece, but she warned of their appeal.

"They are delicious and you can't stop eating them," she said.

### Mocha Hut

At the beginning of the summer, Drew and Stacey Kramer began working to turn Vintage Grooves, a record store, into Mocha Hut, a coffee shop. The coffee shop is located at 211 E. Jefferson.

Drew Kramer, Stacey's husband and co-

Please see NEW OWNERS Page 13