

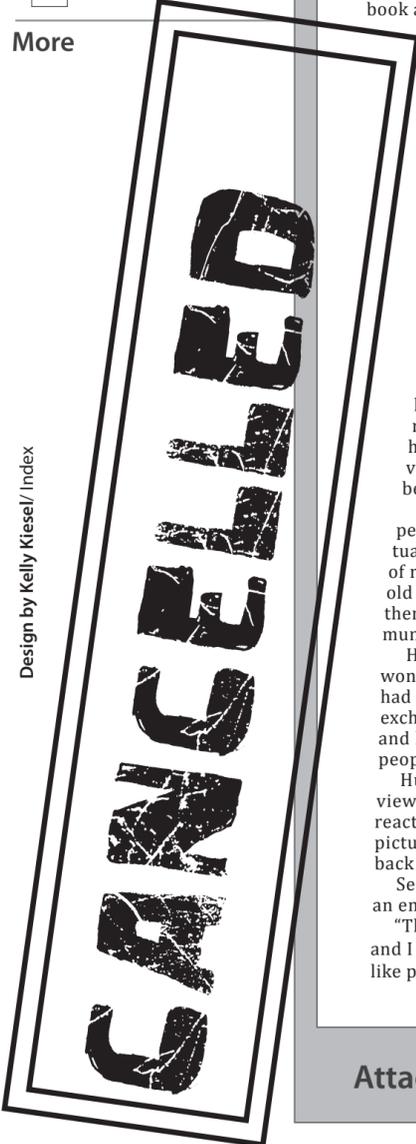
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Students looking for alternatives to Facebook

BY ANNE REBAR
Staff Reporter

Six weeks ago, sophomore Colin Hughes canceled his Facebook account. He said Facebook was infringing upon his real-life relationships with people. And Hughes isn't the only Truman student to pull the trigger on Facebook deactivation.

"Sure, it was nice seeing that I had 700 friends on any given day, but it seemed like our interactions were very surface level, limited to informal wall posts and the occasional online chat," Hughes said.

Hughes said he spent about 30 minutes to an hour on Facebook every day and decided to cancel his account in favor of spending more time with real people.

"I felt like by being on Facebook, I was not cultivating real relationships with people," Hughes said. "Now that I have deleted it, I have more time to interact with people in real life, and I find it much more satisfying."

Hughes said he was worried that when he cancelled his Facebook account, he might fall out of touch with some of the old high school friends he doesn't get to see very often. However, he said it really has not been as hard to keep in touch.

"Since I'm not on Facebook anymore, people have actually made a real effort to actually call me," Hughes said. "I've had a couple of really great, long phone conversations with old friends, and I actually feel much closer to them than before when we would only communicate on Facebook."

Hughes said that a few times people have come to him wondering why they can't find him on Facebook, and he's had to explain that he doesn't have one anymore. He now exchanges phone numbers with people a lot more often and he said his lack of a Facebook has not had any effect on people's ability to contact him.

Hugh said that the only thing he misses is adding and viewing pictures on Facebook. He said he is contemplating reactivating his profile in the future, just to save a bunch of pictures to his computer, but he says he has no plans to get back on permanently.

Senior Brianna Kiser canceled her Facebook account for an entire month a few years ago.

"There was a lot of drama going on, and some of my friends and I were getting into fights over silly things on Facebook, like pictures being posted, and I got sick of it, so I canceled

my account to distance myself from the situation," Kiser said.

Kiser said it was hard getting used to not having a Facebook and not being able to check it several times a day. She said several people came up to her asking what happened to her account and telling her that she should get back on.

"It's kind of weird going without Facebook after getting used to it as a medium to talk to your friends," Kiser said. "I really felt out of the loop and that I didn't know anything that was going on."

Kiser has since rejoined the Facebook community and said she probably won't cancel her account again. She said the benefits far outweigh anything negative about using the site, and she hasn't really had any problems since. If anything comes up again, she likely will take a different approach, like de-friending people.

"It was a refreshing change not to have to check it every day, but I don't think I would ever actually cancel my account altogether."

Theresa Weinhold
Senior

"All of my family has Facebook and to keep any problems from arising I just make sure they are on a limited profile setting so they don't see anything I might not want them to," Kiser said. "I like being able to keep in touch with everyone and Facebook makes it so much easier."

Since she will be graduating soon, Kiser said she probably will start being more cautious on Facebook because she knows potential employers might be using it to research possible hires. However, she still will keep her account and just make sure she has higher security settings, rather than not have an account at all.

Facebook gives users around-the-clock updates on what their friends are doing. Senior Theresa Weinhold realized this and factored it into her decision to suspend her account. Having just gotten engaged, she wanted to tell everyone the good news in person and didn't want them to find out through Facebook. Rather

than risk a Facebook wall-post congratulating her on her engagement and give away her announcement before she had the chance, she opted to suspend her account so she could tell people herself.

"I knew people would find out if I kept my Facebook on, because people would write on my wall and congratulate me," Weinhold said. "I had lots of people ask me why they couldn't find me on Facebook, because they said they wanted to do just that, so I know I was smart to make that decision."

Weinhold, who said she normally is on Facebook 30 minutes to an hour every day, said it was hard not to have Facebook for the few days it was suspended, but also kind of nice.

"It was a refreshing change not to have to check it every day, but I don't think I would ever actually cancel my account altogether," Weinhold said. "I like being able to see what people are up to and keep in touch with old friends whom I probably wouldn't otherwise."

Attach:



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Historical Home I

The Captain Harris Home, built in 1875, is one of the original homes in Kirksville and has been passed from owner to owner

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Woodcox said each house in Kirksville showcases the time period in which they were built and what was important to people at the time. He said Shafer's house showcases a time in which entertaining guests was important.

"That house has very large spaces allowing the host to open up many rooms," he said. "Rather than keep people in a drawing room or a parlor, three or four rooms can be opened up including the stair hall using pocket doors."

He said one of his new hobbies is finding historical homes and buildings in the area and nominating them to the national register so they can be recognized.

"Much of the scholarship that I try to do now is [working] with local history to nominate buildings [to] the National Register of Historic Places so that Kirksville

buildings receive national recognition that they deserve," he said. "These buildings are important in how they work within a regional context of developments of architecture in Kirksville."

John Sparks, volunteer at the Kirksville Historical Society, said the historical preservation of homes and buildings is important, but only to a certain point.

"I don't believe in historical preservation for historical preservation's sake," he said. "Buildings do get old, so sometimes it's too hard to preserve the buildings that have been neglected in town."

Sparks said he is more of a history man. Although he said he thinks it's important to maintain the town of Kirksville, it's more important to maintain the history and the story of Kirksville.

"Without history, we're nothing," he said. "If we learn about our history, hopefully we can learn from it."



Krista Goodman/Index

Cole Woodcox, department chair of English and linguistics, has studied the architecture of the Captain Harris home and other historical houses in Kirksville.

Students recover from culture shock

BY HÉLÈNE BIELAK
Staff Reporter

"Cultural shock" is a feeling shared by most new international students when they come to Truman. The international community at Truman consists of 287 students representing 43 different countries. Far from their homes, habits, friends and families, they have to adapt to a new environment and culture, which sometimes is not easy.

Freshman Devansh Shah arrived on Aug. 17 from India. He said a large difference between India and Kirksville is the retail.

"People respect consumers," Shah said. "Here, for example in Wal-Mart, if you don't like anything that you bought, they will give you your money back. In India, you cannot be reimbursed. That's a good thing: consumers have a good support."

When Shah is not going for a walk in the American paradise of consumerism, he goes to his classes, in which the general atmosphere in class always surprises him.

"Here, students are more open to teachers, and they can argue freely," Shah said. "Instructors are also more tolerant toward the students' attitudes. And you can e-mail them as many times [as] you want, and they will reply [to] you. In India, if you do that, it's kind of weird."

Relations between teachers and students have been the biggest surprise for freshman Plamena Koseva from Greece.

"Here, the teachers want to get to know you," Koseva said. "In Greece,

most of the professors don't even know the name of their students. In Truman, they are very friendly, interesting, helpful and try to make you feel like home."

The instructors' manner of teaching is not the only attitude difference for Koseva. Students' attitudes also have surprised her.

"Students really want to study, to succeed," she said. "They want to reach their goals and Truman helps them a lot to [do] so. In Greece, the education system does not really allow them to have goals. I mean, the Greek university does not promote the ideas of motivation, getting involved, studying hard, succeeding. Then, the students do not study a lot."

Before coming to the United States, Koseva heard several stereotypes about America and its citizens.

"I had been told that Americans did not care about the rest of the world," Koseva said. "But it is kind of the opposite. They are really open to people from other countries, they do not discriminate [against] you. In Greece, you can see that people are discriminating [against] you all the time. As I am born in Bulgaria, sometimes I just will feel different from the others there."

Senior Shoko Minekawa said she still is surprised after one and a half months students she does not know sometimes say "hi" to her on campus.

"In Japan, we do not say 'hello' to the people we do not know," she said.

In addition, the political correctness was also brand new for her, like the typical American hug.

"We do not have a lot of physical contacts with our friends," Minekawa said.

She said another great change for her is the amount of time it takes her to get to her classes.

"In Japan, it takes me two hours from my home to go to my university," Minekawa said. "Now, it is only 5 minutes!"

"Students really want to study, to succeed. They want to reach their goals and Truman helps them a lot to do so. In Greece the education system does not really allow them to have goals."

Plamena Koseva
Freshman