

EDITORIAL

Our View

Kirksville loses a favorite coffee shop, hang-out spot

Everyone has that one place. In "Seinfeld" it was Monk's Diner. In "Friends" the gang hung out at Central Perk. It's that place where you can get a cup of coffee on the go, sit with your friends for hours or study while sipping on a hot chocolate. Sadly, that place for Truman students and Kirksville residents is now gone.

Washington Street Java Co, located in downtown Kirksville, closed Jan. 4 (see story, page 1). And it will be missed.

Java Co had that delicate balance of a small-town, comfortable feel and a hip college atmosphere. The walls were decorated with obscure and colorful paintings, such as an elephant and donkey drinking coffee. The bathrooms were lined with old clothing patterns. The back room was filled with board games and a big comfy booth large enough to hold a group of people.

Java Co's bulletin board always was full of fliers advertising local events or roommate wanted signs. They also frequently had local newspaper clippings taped to the counters highlighting local citizens' achievements, like a high school student's winning touchdown at a big football game.

Everything about Java Co was welcoming. The workers were friendly, the coffee was hot and the atmosphere was cool. Going there felt like college — students on their laptops or reading a newspaper sipping a chai latte. They even had local bands play on the weekends sometimes.

Students weren't the only patrons of Java Co, though. The welcoming atmosphere created a perfect melting pot of college students and Kirksville residents like no other establishment in the city has successfully achieved.

If the atmosphere isn't enough to make you miss Java Co, the menu will do the trick. Caramel, mocha, vanilla, cinnamon and hazelnut were common flavorings in their coffees. Their coffee menu seemed to go on forever, listing one delicious combination of flavorings after another, and each cup of coffee came equipped with a recycled coffee sleeve featuring a piece of famous artwork to enjoy as you sipped.

Java Co didn't only have coffee either. Their menu featured a variety of soups, sandwiches, salads and sweet treats, all made fresh. There was something for everyone at Java Co — the Steer Creek sandwich made with roast beef and colby on fresh baked bread, black bean and tofu salad, tomato lentil soup or a chocolate chip scone. The food was light and simple yet completely comforting and enjoyable, something to be missed.

While Java Co wasn't the only coffee shop on the square, it was arguably one of the favorite choices for students. Where will we go now to fulfill our caffeine cravings or simply hang out with friends? Nowhere else seems to give that welcoming vibe. Nowhere else can you stay for hours and not feel in the way.

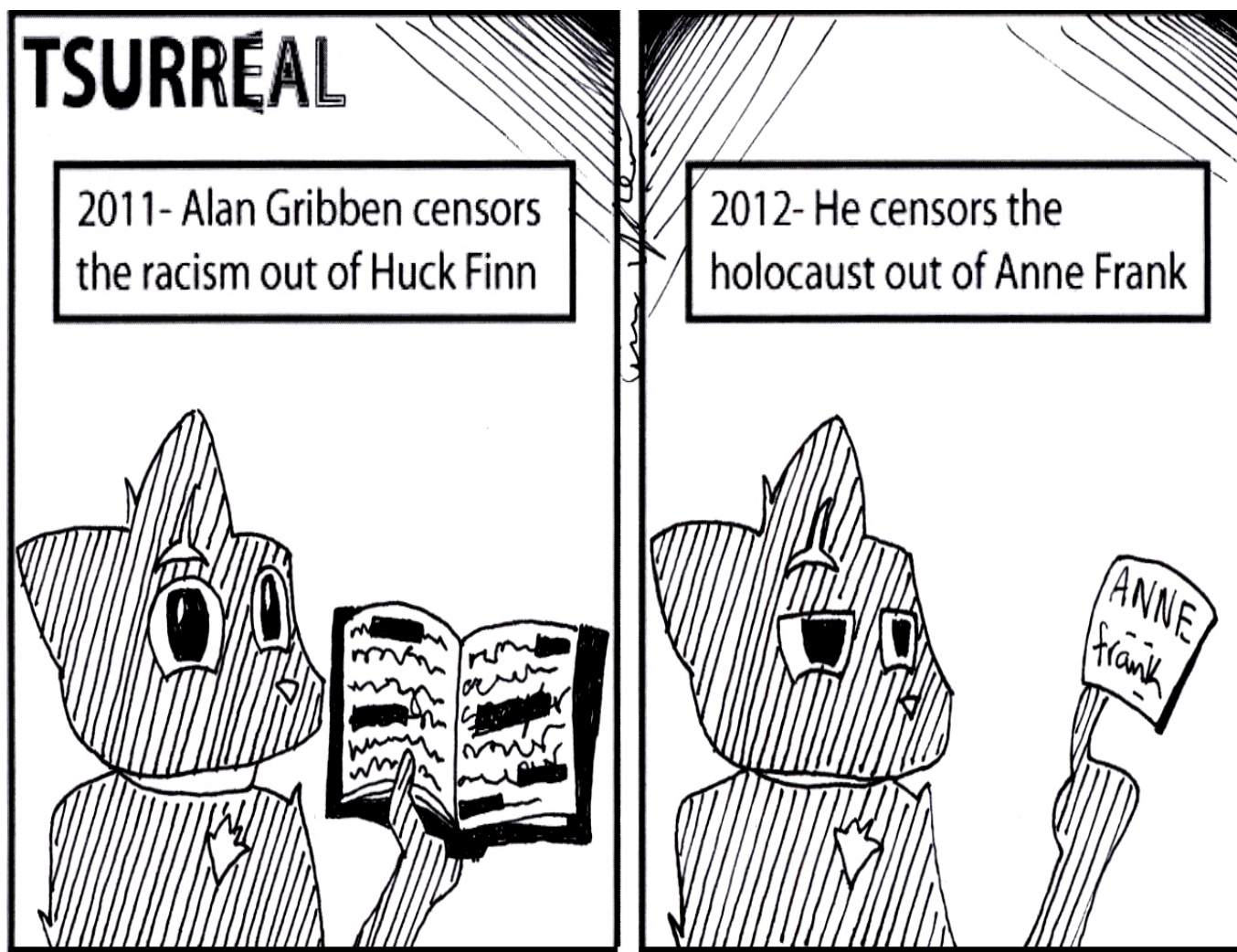
With another business closing on The Square almost every month, who is to say what will be gone next? The new place you deem your own might be next on the chopping block. We might need to resort to campus coffee bars. But while Jazzman's in the Student Union Building and Pickler Memorial Library provide coffee and a large place to hang out, it just isn't the same. People don't want to spend all of their time on-campus. That was part of the enjoyment of Java Co. It was close enough to campus that you could walk, and it allowed you to escape to a nice cozy place.

Java Co will be missed by many. Hopefully another business will step up its game and provide students with a new hang out spot. Everyone needs their own place. Wherever this new place will be — it has some big cups to fill.

corrections

To submit corrections or to contact the editor, please e-mail index@truman.edu, call us at 660-785-4449 or send a letter to Index, 1200 Barnett Hall, Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo., 63501.

cartoon



Letters to the Editor

University must keep student health in mind

The Our View from the Dec. 9 edition of the Index painted a picture of the Truman campus persecuting smokers. You portrayed smokers as the victims of the Board of Governors gone wild, even going as far as stating you couldn't blame smokers for wanting to stand in front of doors during the cold winter months.

You asked when the last time a non-smoker walked through a visible cloud of smoke. In 2006, I returned to Truman after a semester hiatus. I had been diagnosed with cancer and underwent chemotherapy, which I continued receiving while at Truman in Spring 2006. One of the chemo drugs I was on, bleomycin, caused me permanent lung damage in an effort to save my life. When I would attempt to make the short walk to my classrooms, I would reach the doorways of Violette Hall and have to push my way through the clouds of smokers, setting off the equivalent of an asthma attack. Eventually it got to the point that I came to classes late in an effort to avoid these inconsiderate smokers.

You suggest in your editorial that I could have attempted to avoid such a cloud without explaining where the magical entrances to buildings are that don't have smokers puffing away outside of them. Even if those doorways existed, the effort and exhaustion I would have received trying to reach them would be a major inconvenience to me, an inconvenience you would never dare impose on smokers.

I can see that being able-bodied and having the privilege of good health might lead you to think that moving smokers away from doorways couldn't possibly benefit anyone. In your

incredibly short-sighted editorial you do make one good point — Enforcement of the current policies did not go far enough. Instead of a complaint, I see this as a call to action for the University. Truman should actively work to enforce their new policy and to continuously work to advance efforts to benefit students' health around campus.

Julie Mangrum alumna

TSU gives students life-changing opportunities

Elizabeth Edwards passed away Dec. 7 after a long battle with cancer. This normally wouldn't affect me much — it's sad, as she has small children, but the wife of a politician dying easily could seem like just another news story.

Elizabeth Edwards, though, was classy. I met her in 2008 when she spoke at the Association of Health Care Journalists Conference in Washington, D.C. She had already been diagnosed with cancer, but that isn't what she talked to us about. As she leaned on the podium, clearly in discomfort, she talked about the issue of health care coverage for children. She asked that we make the topic a news story and not a lifestyle or health matter in our respective newspapers, magazines and journals. She cared about children and their health very much, even managing to tour the country to talk about the gravity of the situation while her own health was suffering. That's a classy lady, indeed.

As a senior that's about to graduate from Truman, I'd like to thank the faculty for making opportunities like

a scholarship to the Association of Health Care Journalists conference in Washington, D.C. available to students. Since that event, I've received the scholarship twice more (along with other students) and have attended conferences in Seattle and Chicago. It was at the Seattle conference that I made a connection with the editor of a national nursing journal and was hired to write an article that was published in the summer of 2010.

So thank you, especially to Dr. Elizabeth Clark and Dr. Diane Johnson, who made the opportunity to meet Ms. Edwards accessible. I hope future students enjoy such benefits at Truman as much as I have.

Susan Presley alumna

Energy source options achieve better efficiency

Thanks to Connor Stangler for the column "Thought must precede climate change action" in the Dec. 1 edition of the Index. Choices among energy sources are important, along with achieving efficiency in our energy use. But the ultimate problem is relying on excess consumption to drive our economy.

During this holiday season we can tip our behavior in a good direction. For our relatives and friends who have all the goods they need, we can honor them with a contribution to a charity in their name. Donation of funds to environmental organizations help to keep their staff on task, and as those staffers spend their salaries, that also drives the economy in a more sound way.

Jim Turner associate professor of business emeritus

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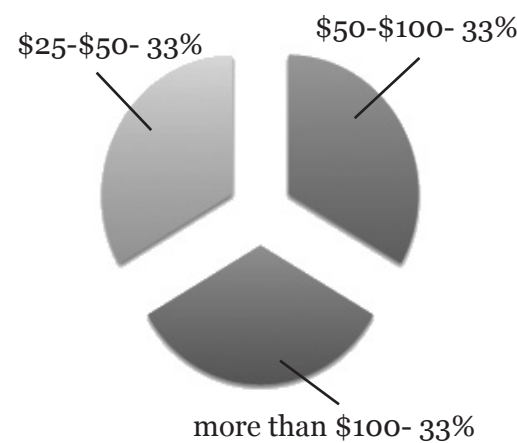
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