

## Kirksville lacks local music scene



Connor Riley

I drove in Saturday after Winter Break thinking I would have extra time with friends before I got back to the grind that is school. However, after I moved my stuff back in and took a nice afternoon nap, I asked myself, "What do I do now?" It seemed that before I had classes to attend, papers to write and grueling hours to spend in the library fueled by a fear of failing and copious amounts of Dr Pepper, I had fallen into the same old rhythm of frantically looking for something to do on a weekend night. In order to avoid spending the evening in my room watching YouTube videos and stalking my friends on Facebook, I ended up in a familiar situation: watching a terrible horror movie titled "The Human Centipede" with my friends and roommates. It was entertaining enough, but our "bad movie nights" have become such a regular part of my social life that I'd almost rather hang out in my room.

These nights, I imagine, are a regular occurrence for many people living in Kirksville. The only place where I really have fun on Friday nights is at a party or a bar, but eventually even enjoying a few drinks with friends loses its appeal. Not to mention that it's not exactly legal for a large portion of the student population.

It would be simply amazing to be able to attend a cheap concert once a week. In fact, Student Activities Board holds an almost weekly concert in the Student Union Building. The problem is that they decided to have the concerts from 3 to 5 p.m. on Fridays, when most students still are in class or getting home and not in the mood to walk anywhere.

Similarly, the Dukum Inn hosts about five small concerts in the Dukum Upp each semester, and they only cost \$3 to attend. However, most of them are limited to persons 21 years or older. SAB hosts one large concert, one large comedy act and one speaker every semester, with several lesser known comedians and bands in between.

I always enjoy the comedy acts and some of the speakers have been interesting, but the musical acts that SAB brings in are terrible and, more importantly, expensive. I'd much rather attend several small concerts in a fun environment with good music than attend one big concert inside a terrible venue like Pershing Arena and bad music from "artists" like Relient K or Red Jumpsuit Apparatus. SAB would be better spending their money by hiring local bands, especially student bands, rather than spending \$51,000 on Regina Spektor. They also should more frequently use smaller venues to play in, like the SUB Down Under.

But Kirksville's lack of a real cultural scene cannot be blamed on SAB. More than anything, it's the fault of the student population, past and present. We have failed to demand something to do on a Friday or Saturday night except the opportunity to cause severe liver damage or sit in the dorms and play Scrabble.

There are approximately 6,000 of us here, and if we can heavily influence the outcome of local elections, it should be easy to create an environment in which we have to choose which event we'd rather go to on a weekend. If we create a demand for some kind of entertainment, there will be a market. Not only can we culturally improve our school, but we could have a positive economic impact on the town that we call home for nine months out of the year. Student organizations need to host events, on and off campus, with food and live music. I assure you, people would come and we'd all be a little less stressed knowing we had something to do when we're not slaving away in the library.

Connor Riley is a junior history major from St. Louis, Mo.

“Don't Retreat, Instead – Reload”

- Sarah Palin

## Violent speech can't kill



Zach Vicars

What was Sarah Palin thinking?

What was she thinking when she "targeted" 20 key leaders that needed to be unseated? What was she thinking when she publicized a graphic with gun cross hairs over districts that she felt needed special attention? What was she thinking when she commanded her followers: "Don't retreat, instead — reload?"

Sarah Palin wasn't thinking. And that's the problem.

Her battleground rhetoric stepped across the line — there is no question about that. As a politician and a person she was unprofessional and careless. I bet when she goes to sleep at night and thinks about the six lives that were lost in Saturday's shooting, she knows she made a big mistake.

But the needless killings at the Arizona grocery store were not Palin's fault. It's absurd and disgusting that members of the media are even project-

ing such a notion.

The headline of Michael Daly's editorial for the New York Daily News, "Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' blood is on Sarah Palin's hands after putting cross hair over district," sums up some of the ridiculous accusations that extremists have sent Palin's way.

The question also has leaked into the social arena. During an interview Sunday morning with ABC News, Facebook executive Randi Zuckerberg said the biggest question online right now is, "Is Palin to blame?"

The answer must be a resounding "no."

There is likely only one person to blame for Saturday's atrocity. The police suspect Jared Loughner. They suspect he got a gun, planned his attack and executed a murderous crime, harming 20 innocent people. If what the police believe is true, then the blood of those people is on Jared Loughner's hands, not Palin's. Now it is the judicial system's responsibility to exact justice. We can only hope that Loughner, if convicted, will spend the rest of his life behind bars.

Removing the blame from the shooter and slapping it on Palin's shoulders is not only cowardly political jockeying — it also is socially irresponsible. Loughner was suspected of attempting an assassination of one public servant, killing another and also murdering an innocent child. The shooter deserves public scorn for what was done. The shooter is the criminal.

His actions were despicable and unwarranted, yet people posing as journalists dare to use his crime as a way to pile further scrutiny onto a politician.

Palin posted some pretty stupid things on her politically-charged blog, but she did not kill a federal judge. Palin did not kill a 76-year-old man who was trying to protect his wife. Palin did not kill a 9 year-old girl who had just been elected to student council at her school. And members of the media should be ashamed for placing that blame on her.

The hateful rhetoric needs to stop. Democrats and Republicans don't agree. We get it. Many of their leaders don't like each other. We get that too. But erroneously blaming a key Republican leader for a crime against a Democratic politician is not helping to quell the blaze of the harmful rhetoric — it's only adding fuel to the fire.

Yes, Palin needs to be called out for her comments. She should apologize for crossing the line, and she should think twice before caricaturing real life people with her caribou-hunting metaphors. But Palin is not a murderer — she just needs to learn how to shut her mouth sometimes.

Zach Vicars is a junior philosophy/religion and linguistics major from St. Charles, Mo.

## AROUND THE QUAD

### What types of entertainment is Kirksville lacking?



"Truman helps a lot with entertainment, but Kirksville could use small coffee shops where bands could play and more theatres."

Megan Richardson senior



"Kirksville needs more venues for local bands, like Il Spazio where you didn't have to be 21 to get in, before it closed that is."

Rachel Vaught junior



"More shopping, like a strip mall, and concert venues would bring more people to Kirksville."

Matt Hernandez junior



"A Target would be nice in Kirksville, or even a place like Dave and Busters to eat and then play games and hang out."

Erin Peters junior

## Controlled rhetoric cannot rewrite U.S. history



Molly Skyles

Real life isn't censored. The politically correct police aren't following people around washing their mouths out with soap when they say a forbidden word.

History is the same way. Just because we deem something inappropriate today doesn't change the fact that it happened. Let us not be ignorant toward the actions and language that transformed who we have become.

Alan Gribben, an English

professor at Auburn University and a Mark Twain scholar, is doing just that — he's censoring history. Gribben decided that editing Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" would help the classic novel increase readership in the classroom. NewSouth Books publishing company took him up on the idea. The new edition will be released in February, according to a Jan. 4 article on nytimes.com.

Gribben's is not changing the plot or characters in his new edition of the book. He is simply changing the language. The 219 times the N-word is used will be replaced with the word "slave," and "injun" will now become "Indian."

As a college student, this is particularly unnerving. Education is something to value, and history is something to cherish. Reading a censored novel discredits literature and the time period when it was set. The

truth of the time gets lost in the words, and the message becomes sugar-coated.

Mark Twain is a literary icon. Editing his words is like a slap in the face, especially for an author who has remained a famous name for centuries and not just in Missouri.

"Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" is an anti-racism book about a boy helping a slave escape out of the South. Changing the language lessens the impact. The N-word is highly offensive in this society, and eliminating it from the novel will only weaken Twain's message against racism, not make it more politically correct. Associating such a forbidden word with harsh actions toward the African American race in the book explains just how wrong racism and slavery are. The word slave loses that power. We hear the term slave in history books so frequently that it easily is disregarded. Thus,

Twain's message becomes lost in controlled rhetoric.

This is not the first time Twain's book has been criticized for its harsh language since its 1884 release. In 1885, the Concord Public Library banned the book deeming Twain's use of common vernacular as demeaning and hurtful, according to time.com. Similar actions occurred in the coming decades at other libraries across the country. Though the novel remains one of the most challenged books in U.S. history, it still is widely taught in American schools.

"Censorship is telling a man he can't have a steak just because a baby can't chew it," said Twain when he was confronted with the controversy surrounding his book.

This rings true in today's society as well. We put such an emphasis on being politically correct that we forget people aren't completely void of common

sense. No average person is going to read "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and then think it is OK use the N-word. Although this word still is abused, Mark Twain is not to blame for that.

Anti-Semitism isn't politically correct either. So are they going to take the Holocaust out of Anne Frank? Last time I checked, adultery was frowned upon too, so there goes "The Scarlett Letter."

We must stop worrying about offending people and take the book for simply what it is — a book. And a great book at that. "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" will be a book read in the classroom for centuries to come. So, sorry Alan Gribben, history cannot be changed.

Molly Skyles is a junior communication major from St. Louis, Mo.