

# Students boycott exploitative shopping

BY CHARUNDI PANAGODA  
Staff Reporter

It's difficult to live life in Kirksville without shopping at Walmart, the only large retail store in town. But that's what some Truman students have chosen to do.

Freshman Ashley Jost doesn't shop at Wal-Mart. She doesn't order pizza from Pizza Hut or eat food from Kentucky Fried Chicken.

It started when Jost saw Robert Greenwald's documentary "Walmart: The High Cost of Low Price," a film portraying the corporation's questionable stances on workers' rights, environmental policies, and its negative impact on small businesses. Around the same time, one of Jost's friends introduced her to a book titled "The Better World Shopping Guide" by Ellis Jones, a sociology lecturer at University of Colorado at Boulder, which ranks companies from A to F based on how much they adhere to human rights, environmental protec-

tion, community involvement and social justice.

After reading the book, which gives Walmart an F, and watching the movie, Jost said she decided to stop shopping at Walmart because she said questionable stores like that not only exploit labor, wipe out small businesses, and pollute the environment, but also keep their workers from unionizing and receiving proper benefits. She said her viewpoint was supported before coming to Truman by living in Chicago, where Walmart-goers most often travel to the suburbs to shop there.

Jost only shops at places within a ranking of at least a D in "The Better World Shopping Guide." She said she prefers buying clothes online, school supplies from either the Truman Bookstore or Walgreen's and food from the local Farmers' Market. She supports buying regional and supporting local economy, she said.

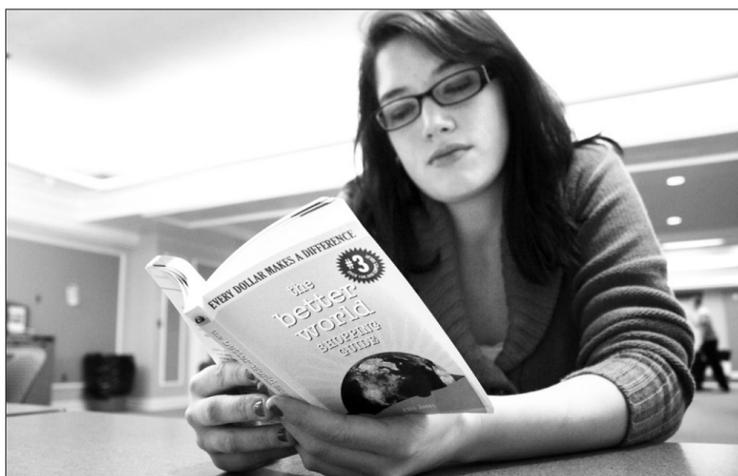
"Everything may be more expensive [when buying local]

but I'm willing to go that extra \$5 to support what I believe in," she said.

Jost is not the only Truman student against corporations like Walmart. Freshman Kayla Mills has been anti-Walmart since she saw Greenwald's documentary in eighth or ninth grade. Even though she tries not to shop at Walmart, sometimes it is the only option in a small town like Kirksville. When she first came here, her GPS showed only two shopping centers in town, one of which was Walmart. She said she had no choice but to shop there, even though she was against it.

"It's hard to get people to care about it even when they do know the issues because Walmart's right there," she said. "It's easy. It's cheap. I guess they try not to think about the bad it causes."

Junior Dylan Gelbach has a different set of reasons not to shop at Walmart. During his sophomore year he looked at all the item he'd bought from Walmart and realized it was



Amy Vicars/Index

Freshman Ashley Jost reads her copy of "The Better World Shopping Guide," by Ellis Jones.

not the best quality. He said he might have been better off not buying them in the first place. He soon switched his spending to alternate stores such as Hy-Vee, Dollar General and local stores like Westlake Ace Hardware.

Gelbach said he had heard his fair share of horror stories about Walmart. Several years ago his father, a unionist, told him a story about Walmart meat cutters who had unionized. The company had fired

all of them and had the meat shipped from Mexico instead. "I don't care if other people shop there [Walmart]," Gelbach said. "I'm just choosing not to."

Senior Loren Billington doesn't see a reason to avoid shopping at Walmart based on the objections to it. He is not unaware of the stories about exploitation. He said he thinks many of the problems with Walmart are supplier related. He said it is the responsibility of

Walmart suppliers to act ethically when making products. Walmart has a responsibility to set standards for their suppliers as well, he said. As for Walmart wiping out small town mom and pop shops, he said it's better to have one retailer with the advantage of doing a better job.

"Walmart is generally my choice retailer because they have what I want, what I need and the price is fairly reasonable," he said.



Caroline Stamp/Index

Freshman Bryan Paulus looks for a book in Pickler Memorial Library on Tuesday. The library often purchases books that students request, based on product reviews and available funds.

## Library fills student requests

BY BURGUNDY RAMSEY  
Staff Reporter

Books, movies, music: Pickler Memorial Library has it all. If it doesn't have something specific, students and faculty can make a request.

Gayla McHenry, head of access services at the library said that they receive many requests online from students and faculty or through its suggestion box. McHenry said she recommends including your name and contact information if you request a book through the suggestion box. If the librarians have any questions, they can follow up on it. McHenry said they have thrown requests away because they weren't specific enough or they couldn't figure out what they meant.

After the library receives requests, they are separated by subject and sent to the librarian in charge of each section. The section's librarian has the final say about whether the library purchases the item. Usually, this decision comes down to money. If the library has available funds, it

usually will buy the book, McHenry said. Books faculty members need for their classes take precedence over some student requests.

Sharon Hackney, head of the media department, said she receives a lot of requests for movies and music. She also looks at an item's reviews before she buys them. Hackney said the library tries to buy movies or other media that are nominated for awards, such as Oscars.

Stephen Wynn, co-director of the library, is in charge of the math and computer sciences resources. He said they try to fill out as many requests as possible.

"If we get a request for something, it's usually something someone wants to use," Wynn said. "It's good to spend money on resources that are actually used."

Wynn said they don't keep exact numbers on how many requests they receive and fill, but they have filled more than 1,000 faculty requests.

There are no books or media strictly banned that the librarians won't get. Each uses his or her dis-

cretion when looking. McHenry said if he thinks a normal liberal arts college's library would have it, they will most likely end up getting it. The librarians usually will grant it, unless the request is really obscene or absurd.

McHenry said she has received complaints about some books in the library, especially art books with revealing pictures. Her advice to people is simple.

"If you don't like them, then don't look at them," McHenry said.

Overall, the process is quick. Wynn said he likes to make the decision as soon as he gets the request. After that, they will order the book. The rest of the time is waiting for its arrival and getting it into circulation. McHenry said the amount of time it takes depends on where the item is coming from and how backlogged the library is on getting books into circulation.

To fill out a book request or for more information on anything library related, visit the library's website, <http://library.truman.edu>.

## Showgirls head to regionals

BY SHAWN SHINNEMAN  
Staff Reporter

Truman's dance team, the Showgirls, goes through a transitory period at the beginning of each season. Incoming freshmen with diverse dance backgrounds need to be shaped — formed from individuals to intricate parts of a synchronized whole.

The transition can take some time, even during years in which only a few freshmen have joined the squad.

This year, eight joined the squad. "When we add them to our team, we have to mold them to our style," said senior Kate Hagenhoff, co-captain of the Showgirls. "That took a lot of work, trying to mold eight people as opposed to just a few."

On Jan. 22 the team's efforts will be judged when they travel to Chicago, Ill., to compete at the Chicago and Dance Championship. It's the first time they've taken part in a regional competition.

Freshman Emma Brockschmidt said the team has improved throughout the year.

"A few weeks before competition is always rough because you're not sure, you think, 'Well maybe we're not good enough,'" Brockschmidt said. "But right now it's crunch time, and everyone is very focused. The dance is coming together in leaps and bounds. Huge improvements are made every day, and it does look very good."

The team will perform a routine they've been working on since mid-October. They usually practice approximately eight hours per week, but recently that number has risen.

"After break is when we really broke things down and took it piece by piece, so that we could get a good grip on each section," Hagenhoff said. "We had practice Sunday and then really we will have had absolutely no breaks until competition."

Some regional events can be used as stepping stones to the

national competition, broadcast each year by ESPN.

Saturday's competition is too late in the year to act as qualifying for nationals, but if all goes well the team could decide to enter the first semester-competition next year.

"It's going to be good to get our name out there and do something good and do something different that we can continue in years to come," Hagenhoff said. "We're trying to set an example for the girls on the team now that will be future leaders."

Coach Brandi Wriedt has watched the routine come together since October and said the team is excited to show what they can do. Still, Wriedt said, the team is tempering their expectations.

"It's their first competition," Wriedt said. "I just hope we do a really great job. Just making sure everyone goes and they perform their routine well, and they have a great time doing it, and they love their experience, is of the utmost importance."

Wriedt, who also coaches Truman cheerleading, said she usually does not deal with choreography or music, but attends practices to "make sure, overall, their routine is acceptable and performable."

The Showgirls have received high honors in recent years. Competing at a camp on the campus of Missouri State University, the team has finished second place twice and third place once during the past three years, against approximately 15 teams from the Midwest.

"Our team always has a great reputation," Wriedt said. "Other teams want to talk to our girls. So our girls are held in high regard amongst some of the other dance teams in the area."

The Showgirls are performing a send-off show at 8:30 p.m. Friday night in Pershing Arena.

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