

Visiting students sell posters



Calli Lowry/Index

Narek Stulaster, left, and Peter Garci, right, sell posters on the Mall through their company Global Prints. The two men attend school in Slovakia and travel to different campuses during breaks in their school system to sell posters.

Comic provides pleasant surprise

BY JENNIFER MARKS
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To kick off the school year with laughter, the Student Activities Board brought comedian Josh Gondelman Aug. 24.

When Gondelman first took the stage, I was a little skeptical about his comedic potential. He just looked like an average guy wearing a T-shirt and jeans. To my surprise, he was funny, leaving my friends and I satisfied with our Friday night activity choice.

Gondelman opened with the proverbial "You attend school in a ridiculously small town in the middle of nowhere Missouri" joke, as most comedians who visit Truman State do. Luckily, he didn't dwell on that and chose to instead point out that we're a bunch of nerds — highlighted by the fact that on a Friday night, we're watching him, instead of being crazy college kids.

Then Gondelman got into the meat of his performance, which included some unexpected topics. Gondelman talked about the time he met a homeless former professor who knew about the history of German unification, and the time he spent working at a preschool, among other stories.

Usually when friends start talking about small children, I lose interest because I have no siblings, and can only take so much "look at this cute thing this kid did" talk. But Gondelman made this whole preschool system relatable and exceedingly funny.

His story about a tiny Hispanic Batman whose costume was soiled by Bruce Wayne was my personal favorite.

Another unexpected topic covered by Gondelman was his recent singleness, and the fact that he carried protection everywhere. Even while he was on stage, he was never unnecessarily crude or inappropriate (at least based on a collegiate maturity level) and even managed to make buying Plan B funny. Ten points to Gondelman for that one.

Between all of his stories, Gondelman weaved a theme of

civil rights and acceptance of all people regardless of differences. I appreciated that he was funny and had a purpose.

Gondelman's demeanor on stage made the difference for me. My original skepticism about him ended up making him better. It felt more like I was

listening to an awesome cousin who lives in New York and tells me hilarious stories, instead of watching a comedian dole out one scripted joke after another. Gondelman also made sure to address the crowd directly, making us feel like a part of the act rather than just less-funny bystanders of his routine.

What started out as an expected, slightly lame comedic act ended up a great surprise, full of hilarity and good times. An average-looking guy in a T-shirt and jeans turned out to be funny and witty.



Propaganda poses threat



Political propaganda threatens democracy and government

BY JENNIFER MARKS
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Propaganda: the Nazis used it, Great Britain used it and in America, politicians still use it. Why, you ask? Because it works. Americans are so unquestioning of information presented to them, they miss the fact they practically are being told what to think.

When the Nazis used propaganda, they made a scapegoat out of an entire population. Today, anti politician ads and films are executing an eerily similar concept, except instead of targeting an entire race of people, the target is one man. Don't get me wrong: I'm not saying American politicians are akin to Nazis with an affinity for genocide. However, politics throughout America have used a similar venue for controlling the behavior of the population. And with technology and social media becoming more advanced and prolific, America has an even easier job.

Scrolling through my Facebook newsfeed, I can't help but notice the dozens of anti-President Barack Obama photos and statuses. There is no way one man has single-handedly destroyed your home, livelihood and occupation. The housing market was awful before he took office. In addition, I know how the government works.

Presidents have hundreds of people behind them (some of whom you elected), working with them on these policies, which you blame for ruining your life. If you speak against a president or

politician, you need to include the other people too. You won't see me waving a giant Obama foam finger or putting his 2012 sign up in my front yard, but that doesn't mean I can't recognize Obama is human.

As for mudslinging ads on television, why would you ever be inclined to believe them? These ads practically shove distorted information down your throat. Yes, Representative A voted against some things that sound pretty nice overall. However, the ad doesn't explain that Representative A voted against the bill based on some tiny add-ons that would have meant bad things for his state.

You can't just accept information you want to agree with, you should accept information you know to be accurate, which is harder to do today than ever before.

During the holiday weekend, I was invited to attend a film with some friends. Knowing the film had an anti-Obama slant, I decided to go in with an open, albeit questioning mind. The film, as films go, was quite well done. Seemingly well-researched, filmed with a high quality camera, etc. However, the film raised more questions than it answered for me. It also took some broad logical leaps.

Just because Obama's father, who missed most of his life, was an anti-colonialist, doesn't mean our current president is out to destroy all colonizing nations. Also, Obama had a communist friend. Big deal. I have extremely liberal friends. Does that make me a liberal? I didn't think so.

This propaganda film presented information in a particular way for a reason. It wants you to think a certain way. Every interview clip left on the cutting room floor, every shot of a random African American and every credibility assertion was a deliberate choice by the director and producer to steer your thinking in an anti-Obama direction.

Remember, I'm not advocating Obama here. There's no guarantee for whom I'm going to vote this November. I still have a lot to learn about all the candidates. We all have a lot to learn. As an American, your job is not just to blindly accept what is fed to you by the media and "the man." You must learn to distinguish between legitimate information and information designed to manipulate your votes or opinions. Use your brain. Don't let propaganda dictate what you think.

Importance of words is often forgotten



BY KATHLEEN BARBOSA
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As an English and communication double major, my academic life revolves around words and their meaning.

We spend hours in literature classes discussing why authors who died decades ago decided to call something stunning rather than beautiful. Dissertations are written tracing the sources of single lines of Shakespeare's plays back to sources in texts by Ovid.

In communication classes, we analyze everything from advertisements to political speeches, trying to decipher the hidden motives and persuasive techniques veiled with clever rhetoric.

Despite these two disciplines' devotion to words, the average conversationalist can easily dismiss the power of their words. People should make more conscious decisions about their choice of words, because words have enormous power.

It's easy to forget the importance of words because we throw them around so casually. We say offhanded remarks, and we tweet and text as if communi-

cation is the most casual thing in the world. The frequency of communication dilutes the meaning.

The way we describe our jobs, events or even people dramatically impacts the way others view them. The difference between a good and bad day is often the language we use to describe it.

Our rhetoric is infectious. The people we see on a daily basis often pick up the same phrases we use, and vice versa. Using loaded and negative language can spread into a conversation, leaving the dialogue peppered with negative connotations.

Taking a few more moments to think before you speak, write or tweet will leave everyone much happier. A few less hurt feelings, and a slightly less crowded sphere of noise in social media will improve our communication.

The way we phrase arguments, describe our relationships and talk about

our futures defines them. If you desire power, don't search for authority, but seek a mastery of words. The leader with persuasive oratory skills will find it easier to lead people or unite them behind a common cause.

During the 2008 presidential election, President Barack Obama united an electorate behind his rhetoric promising hope and change. His influence was in his choice of words and the poetry of his phrases.

Choose your words carefully, but then stand by them. If you took the time to think out the consequences of your words, it will be easier to defend them and justify your choices. Words are like currency — the worth is in the value attached to it. Without this value, it becomes noise or paper without significance.

Live up to your rhetoric, only make promises you can keep and defend your word to the end because it is your honor.

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Classifieds

660-785-4319

For Sale

For Sale: Solid oak three quarter bed. Mattress and sheets are included. If interested, Contact Anita at 660-665-6433.

For Sale: Pick your own watermelons at Noble's Berry Farm. One acre of irrigated land filled with four varieties of melons. Go east on Highway 11 to Strawberry Way then a half mile south. Opens at 3 p.m. every day.

For Sale: Well-maintained home on beautiful street near Kirksville schools and within walking distance of Truman. Three bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, living room with fireplace, dining room, sunroom/family room, huge yard with privacy fence. Appliances included. New high-efficiency heating and cooling system. Full basement and attic. \$179,000. For pictures, 1414highland.shutterfly.com or call 660-665-6333.

For Sale

For Sale: 22322 Michigan Trail, only house on Forest Lake. 1400 sq. ft. ranch on 4 1/2 acres with stocked pond. Two miles from ATSU and Truman. Two bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, living room, family room, eat-in kitchen with stainless appliances. Hot tub with great views. \$139,500. More info at michigantrail.shutterfly.com or call 660-216-0005.

Miscellaneous

Event: You can be a Scientist and a Bible-believing Christian! Dr. Houts NASA Engineer & Dr. Rutherford of UMKC speak at Ekklesia's Youth Rally VH 1000 Sat. Sept. 8 1-6 PM.

Event: Ekklesia's Tailgate Party at 6:30 PM on Sat. Sept. 8. Join us for free hotdogs before the game, 1405 S. Florence, by stadium. Ekklesia.truman.edu

Event: Listen to Ekklesia's A Cappella Hour with Aaron Kusmec & Guests on KTRM, 88.7 FM, Sundays @ 8 AM. Starts Sept. 9.

Miscellaneous

Event: Spiritual NIGHTCAP DEVO, Tues. Sept. 10 @ 8:30 PM Ekklesia Campus House, 1405 S. Florence. Be filled with the Spirit, not spirits! Eph. 5:18-20