The Supreme Court outlawed segregation between black and white students in schools half a century ago, but a familiar scene in the Student Union Building at Missouri State University, one that is still repeated at Truman, is not optimal.

"The first week of school you gotta be a little bit on edge, you don't know who's going to sit near you," McDonald said. "And a lot of it just comes back to, 'Great, I'm never here.' Who is going to hang out with me? Who's going to stand up for me? That's where it hurts, but it's not a new thing. That's what it is, but it's a new phenomenon."

Kim Brown, a black man, said he felt uncomfortable moments early into the Truman community.

"When I first got here, I thought I was ready for Truman's mostly white student body, but she said she didn't feel the transition difficult."

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