

Amy Gleaves/Index The Student Activities Board, SUB After Dark and the Center for Student Involvement brought a synthetic ice skating rink to the SUB.

Students test out transient ice rink

BY EMMA MUELLER Staff Reporter

Kirksville had an ice rink — for three days at least.

The Student Activities Board, SUB After Dark and the Center for Student Involvement brought a synthetic ice rink to the Student Union Building Jan. 29 to 31. The free event made many in the Truman community wonder how there could be an ice rink in the SUB.

SAB used Perfect Parties USA to bring the ice rink to campus. Reginald Obas, one of two installers who were responsible for setting up the rink, has been installing synthetic rinks for six years.

"Well, basically it's a big plastic board," Obas said. "Installation takes two hours. It's like a puzzle."

Even though the rink was small, it was larger than the ones Obas usually installs.

'The average one is 25 panels," Obas said. "[This one] is 35.

Junior Frankie Bruning, SAB special events committee member and the student in charge of the event, said she was thrilled about bringing in a synthetic ice rink.

"It's a plastic polymer, and the way [the rental company] described it is, it's like a cutting board, sort of like those jelly cutting boards," Bruning said. "The friction from the

liquid on top, and they spray it with an environmentally friendly solution to keep the lubrication.'

The whole experience differed from skating on actual ice. The rink was smaller than a normal ice rink, and there was no need to bundle up in hats and gloves.

"You could come in shorts if you really wanted," Bruning

To create a magical atmosphere at the rink, pictures of campus winter scenes were displayed. Music played from speakers and snacks like cookies. Rice Krispies treats, s'mores and hot chocolate were served.

Even though the experience might not have compared to actual ice skating, it was different from usual cam-

pus events. "You can tell when they're on the ice, everyone's having a good time, which is great," Bruning said.

This event was in the works for more than three months, and CSI program adviser Rachelle Williams was there almost every step of the

"I started in November, and they

skates will create the layer that's like had already started working on it at that time" Williams said. "So they've been working on it for a while. It takes quite a while to get a contract going, especially for an event this

Students had high expectations for the event, which was projected to draw a large crowd.

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Reginald Obas

Perfect Parties USA Installers

During the threeday period, 533 skaters and about 500 more onlookers popped in to see what the ice was like and what the event had to offer, Bruning said.

"A lot of people are really excited," Bruning said. "There have been a couple of people that have been disappointed, but that's to be expected."

Senior Michelle Coolidge said she was disappointed with the expe-

"It was really hard to skate on, actually," Coolidge said. "I felt like I was going to fall down."

Coolidge said she wouldn't participate in the event again.

'I felt like the surface was different," Coolidge said. "But it was also a little bit small. I think if they made it a little bit bigger it would definitely be better."



Smocovitis wishes Darwin happy birthday

BY LINDSEY WILLIAMS **Staff Reporter**

This year is a time of celebration for those in the field of science, as it marks the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the release of his scientific work, "On the Origin

of Species." Truman hosted guest speaker Betty Smocovitis Tuesday, Jan.. 27 to kick off the Year of Darwin celebration. Her lecture was titled "Singing His Praises: Darwin and His Theory in Song and Musical Production," and featured music

and slides. The lecture was designed to reflect on Darwin's life and his theory of evolution while also displaying his immersion in popular culture. Throughout the lecture, Smocovitis showed slides of pieces of music written over the years that explained Darwin's theories through them.

"I saw the first piece of sheet

1985, and I was very curious about it." she said. "And I was curious that no one was doing very much

with music like that in particular. I waited 20 years for something to happen, and I wanted to do something special this year. I wanted to do something that would be appropriate for the lecture and anniversary."

This perspective on Darwin's history was brought by Truman's Phi Beta Kappa chapter. Smocovitis said that was just the

beginning of the celebration of the anniversary.

"I am [a] historian of science, and my specialty is the history of evolution," Smocovitis said. "I've another lecture [about] Darwin's

music that I showed way back in been holding on to that material for theories but it was more about what ion. That popular culture, in many a long time. I see it as a capstone, as a privilege. It's an honor.

Smocovitis also gave lectures to three classes during her two-day visit to "I went in prepared

to listen to

another lecture

[about] Darwin's

theories but it was

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occurred because

of him."

Tammy Guilford

junior

Truman. "One of the things I really enjoy is to meet and work with really bright and interdisciplinary undergrads," she said. "I was really impressed with the student body at Truman. I don't think I've met so many interested students,

and I enjoyed talking with them." Darwin audience member junior Tammy Guilford said the lecture was different from

what she expected. "I went in prepared to listen to occurred because of him," she said. "There were songs written because of him, and his face was put on money, and in England his face was

on a pound. Guilford said the presentation was made more interesting by the different view on the subject.

"Something that stood out was you could tell how passionate [Smocovitis] was about Darwinism," she said.

Tom Capuano, professor of classical and modern languages organized the lecture and said this was his first experience watching a

speaker on Darwin. "I was just disappointed to see how little critical thinking there is that floats to the top in popular culture," Capuano said. "When you point to songs, for example, that have addressed Darwin's theory. they all seem to be very shallow - very frivolous ... That was really the whole point, in my opin-

ways, was running away from the theory and the only way they could figure out how to run away from it was to make light of it."

Capuano said he was surprised and excited by the amount turnout of the event.

'We asked them to set up 300 chairs, and I was a little anxious because you never know how many will show up," Capuano said. "But when people started coming in 20 minutes early, then we saw that we were going to have a good group, so I was very encouraged."

Capuano said this event would not have been possible without the Phi Beta Kappa fraternity and the swell of interest coming from different professors in the science department, as well as the interest of students across campus.

"I'm just really glad that there was so much interest in this Phi Beta Kappa speaker because we would love to do it again," Capuano said.

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