

Home Sweet CoMo

Columbia artist David Spear beautified the intersection of Ninth and Broadway for the Traffic Box Art project funded by Columbia's office of cultural affairs, convention and visitors bureau, The District and the police department.

COLUMBIA'S QUALITIES would make it quite a catch on any matchmaking website: smart, charming, athletic, artistic, hardworking, musically inclined and a fantastic cook. Who wouldn't fall madly in love?

Alumni who make regular trips back to their academic stomping ground know that College Town USA's annual evolution can be astounding. New restaurants and shops crop up each season, and the community is blossoming around every corner. In 2012, Roots N Blues N BBQ turns 6, True/False Film Fest turns 9, Shakespeare's plans to open a third location, and the city will welcome new guests as Mizzou begins life in the Southeastern Conference.

Known for its hospitality, Columbia has plenty to offer. For those who already call it home, CoMo is where the heart is. Stories by Dale Smith and Marcus Wilkins • Photos by Nicholas Benner and Rob Hill



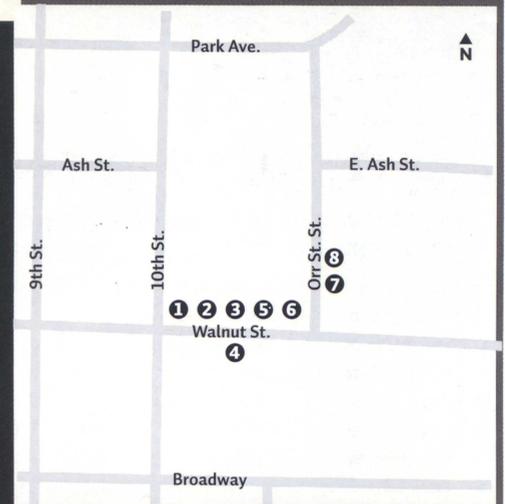
Arts scene thrives

IN RECENT MEMORY, the downtown Columbia blocks north and east of Ernie's Café and Steak House at 1005 E. Walnut St. offered, well, "not so much," says Jennifer Perlow, BA '94. But during the past five years, the old warehouses and other structures have blossomed into a haven for the arts. The North Village Arts District now includes painters, sculptors, dance companies, filmmakers, live music and even a grocery store.

The shift started with Orr Street Studios, a renovated warehouse that opened in 2007 at 106 Orr St. with 16 studios where artists work and sell their wares. At its opening, Karsten Ewald of the Columbia Art League told the *Columbia Daily Tribune* that, "I really feel Columbia is on the cusp of becoming a major art stop in the Midwest ..."

Now a hundred or so artists show work, and special events welcome throngs of art lovers. For instance, the Farmers and Artisans Market runs from May to November. "We've got produce, artists selling goods from paintings to hats to necklaces to alpaca rugs," Perlow says. "And there are pumpkin carving contests, a demonstration on how to build a chicken coop — even Tai Chi flash mobs. The North Village is not just a place to go but a thing to do. The fact that it exists really speaks to growth in the arts community in Columbia."

Dancers practice at the Missouri Contemporary Ballet, 110 Orr St.



- 1 Ernie's
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Art Venues

PS:Gallery (fine art),
1025 E. Walnut St.

Orr Street Studios
(fine art), 106 Orr St.

Artlandish Gallery ▶
(gifts, fine crafts)
Check out the catacombs
downstairs for more
offerings.
1019 E. Walnut St.

**Columbia Academy of
Music and The Bridge**
(lessons and live music),
1020 E. Walnut St.

**Missouri Contemporary
Ballet** (performance,
instruction), 110 Orr St.

Rock Bottom Comics
(comics, graphic novels),
1013 E. Walnut St., Suite 101



Missourians Michele Stichler of Alden and John Merrifield of Greenville shop at Artlandish Gallery.

A party for every season

Columbians are a fun-loving crowd that enjoys art, entertainment and festivals year-round. Come on down:

- Mizzou recently upped its contribution to local culture by leasing the **Missouri Theatre** at 203 S. 9th St. to host University Concert Series events and more.
- The **Roots N Blues N BBQ** festival has included the likes of Taj Mahal and Tab Benoit (Sept 21–22, 2012, rootsnbluesnbbq.com).
- The **True/False Film Fest** continues to garner acclaim for its annual display of documentaries from all over the world (March 1–4, 2012, truefalse.org).
- The **Citizen Jane Film Festival** highlights films made by women (October 2012, citizenjanefilm.org)
- **Art in the Park** features dozens of crafts vendors, music and more (June 2–3, 2012, artintheparkcolumbia.org).
- The **“We Always Swing” Jazz Series** brings great musicians to town year-round (wealwaysswing.org).
- **Artrageous Fridays** revelers “crawl” to downtown arts venues (2012 dates: April 20, July 20, Oct. 12–13, artrageousfridays.com).



Jazz singer Rene Miller performs at Murry’s, 3107 Green Meadows Way.

Photo courtesy of Joel E. Anderson



Chew chew train

ONE OF COMO'S BEST features is its gastronomic variety. Take a springtime stroll downtown and inhale an aromatic array ranging from Far East to Deep South to backyard burgers.

But if you are looking for a literal culinary journey, try the **Columbia Star Dinner Train**, which boards at 6501 N. Brown Station Road. Whether it's the elegant atmosphere, multicourse gourmet meal or a nostalgic notion of railroad dining, the experience induces a celebratory mood from the moment you are seated.

Offering dinner on Fridays and Saturdays, and brunch on Sundays, the 1950's streamlined passenger train takes a two-and-a-half hour route through the countryside of north

Boone County to Centralia and back. Live music, signature cocktails and friendly service complete the effect.

Many of Columbia's favorite brick-and-mortar restaurants have also moved, as in relocated. They'll likely stay put for a while. Several are listed on the opposite page.

All aboard!



Shrimp cocktail appetizers whet the appetites of diners on their three-hour trip through northern Boone County.

International Café*26 S. Ninth St.*

Owner Mohamed Gumati was born in Libya, but he taught himself to cook in St. Louis before opening the restaurant's original CoMo home on Hitt Street 20 years ago. Now he has moved his mainstay gyros and tabouleh to a more prominent downtown location.

Red Mango*1009 E. Broadway*

This popular parlor boasts 100 percent natural ingredients and probiotic live and active cultures in its frozen yogurts and iced teas. The soft-serve frozen yogurt is sold by weight, and the toppings bar features fresh fruit and unexpected crunchy items such as Fruity Pebbles and organic granola.

Bambino's*10th and Broadway*

Formerly tucked away at Hitt and Locust, the new location has transformed this affordable Italian favorite into a highly visible, bright and inviting café. The menu features the heartily portioned Pasta Al Poppa, with marinara, cream sauce, sausage and mushrooms, and the popular chicken-and-

artichoke sub. "The Bam" delivers, too.

Shakespeare's Pizza*3304 Broadway Business Park Court*

In many ways, CoMo's original world-famous pizza joint represents a bridge connecting city to university at Ninth and Elm streets. The above location in western Columbia opened in 2002, and a third site out south at 3911 Peachtree Drive — 14,000 square feet with party rooms and a frozen pizza production area — could open as soon as spring 2012.

CC's City Broiler*1401 Forum Blvd.*

Previously located in downtown Columbia, this grand grill made its name slinging generously sized, perfectly cooked slabs of beef before heading west in 2007. The restaurant still warrants consideration for the best steaks in town — snag a bone-in ribeye if you're lucky — and the dark, romantic setting and professional service have gotten even better.

Arris' Pizza*1020 E. Green Meadows, Suite 102*

Jefferson City Mizzou alumni grew up with the family-style pizza palace across the street

**Casablanca Mediterranean Grill** *501 Elm St.*

Formerly a favorite on the south side of town, the handsome new location northwest of campus offers flavors from Greece, Morocco and Libya. Dinner plates feature homemade falafel, lamb and chicken kabobs. For sides, Casablanca offers a variety of authentic Mediterranean soups and salads.

from the Missouri State Capitol. The Columbia location opened in 2007, offering a lunch buffet, baked pasta dishes and its signature Greek salad.

Glenn's Café*501 High St., Boonville, Mo.*

For those who remember the restaurant's previous locations on Ninth Street or Business Loop 70, its new home in the riverside Frederick Hotel in historic downtown Boonville, Mo., might be an aesthetically pleasing upgrade. Where else in mid-Missouri can you get zesty shrimp creole, corn bread, gumbo and bread pudding with whiskey sauce or a good Angus steak and pork chops?

44 Stone Public House*3910 Peachtree Drive*

Columbia's newest gastropub features English, Irish and Scottish fare, "but with contemporary American insight," according to its website. Interesting menu items such as

rarebit (Welsh rabbit) and flash-fried chicken livers coexist with an extensive beer list including everything from ale and barley wine to mead and stout.

Red and Moe*21 N. Ninth St.*

Restaurateur Tom Rippetto started as a 13-year-old dishwasher at The Pizza House, once located two doors down from his current pizzeria. Pizza House owners Paul "Red" Castle and Roland "Moe" Beland mentored Rippetto in life, and now Red and Moe's seasonal menus feature artisan pizzas, unique salads and homemade desserts, all made with local ingredients when available.

Tony's Pizza Palace*17 N. Fifth St.*

Not everyone knows about this casual family favorite, though it has been in Columbia for 50-plus years. Bring the gang and fill up on hot subs, salads, spanakopita, pizza and gyros.

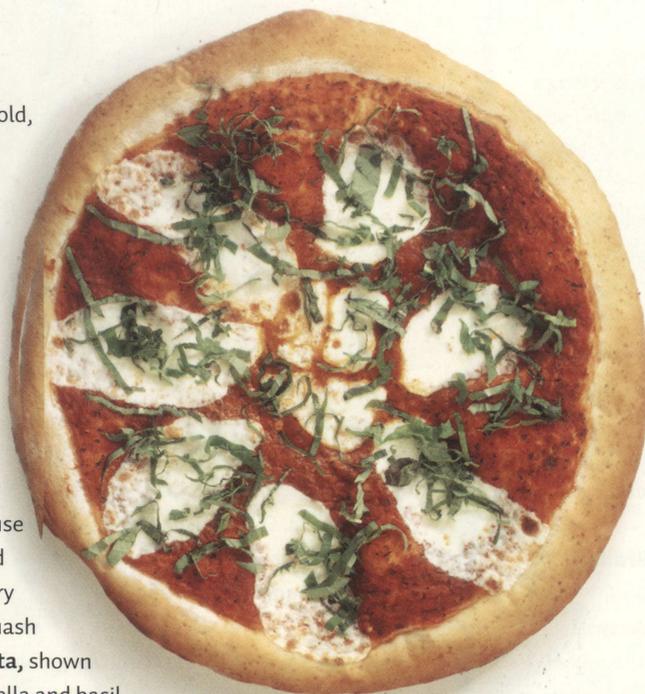
**The Pasta Factory***3103 W. Broadway, Suite 109*

Jason and Jennifer Johnson Dubinski, BA '88, met as employees before getting married and purchasing the restaurant in 2001. The restaurant relocated in April 2011 from its downtown location, but it maintains the classic comfort of the old digs; the stained glass, retro wall ads, antique ceiling fans and affordable menu endure.

Broadway Brewery

816 E. Broadway

Only two-and-a-half years old, this hip brewpub nestled downstairs on the south side of CoMo's main drag is already a mainstay for foodies and beer connoisseurs alike. The menu highlights local farms and seasonal items that pair perfectly with the handcrafted beer on tap. Try the butternut bacon pizza made with house bacon lardons, caramelized onions and Milton Creamery cheddar on a butternut squash puree. The **Pizza Margherita**, shown at right, with fresh mozzarella and basil, is served year round.



Internoshional

If you like crossing borders, check out Columbia's menu of specialty food stores:

Root Cellar (Missouri foods)
1023 E. Walnut St.

Chong's Oriental Market | 701 Locust St.

Hong Kong Market
3510 Interstate 70 Drive S.E.

Campus Eastern Foods | 408 Locust St.

Natasha's Euro Market (eastern European) | 705 Vandiver Drive

Olive Café (Mediterranean, Asian)
21 N. Providence Road

World Harvest (international)
3700 Monterey Drive

Los Cuates Latin Store | 2908 Paris Road

Kea's International Market
(includes Cambodian, Vietnamese)
705 Vandiver Drive

Getting to, from and around Columbia

TEN-TON TIGERS PROWL the streets of Columbia. In fall 2011, the first two city buses with black-and-gold paint jobs started replacing the red-and-blue fleet that reminded some locals of Kansas colors.

On the new buses, tiger eyes peer from above the headlights; black, gold and white paint adorns the sides; and a curly tiger tail wags over the back bumper.

Mike Alden, athletic director, says when he arrived at MU in 1998, he spoke with campus and city government employees about the bus color issue; none had an explanation.

Then, as Columbia was gearing up for Homecoming 2010, Alden read a *Columbia Daily Tribune* article during his morning workout. The

Federal Transit Administration had earmarked \$2 million to replace six of Columbia's aging buses. Alden contacted then-City Manager Bill Watkins, BS PA '74, MS '76, to revive the color conversation. Several campus staffers compiled ideas, and Brendon Steenbergen, BA '99, creative director of BigFish Creative in Columbia, developed the design.

In response to detractors who said the black-and-gold motif makes Columbia look like a company town, Mayor Bob McDavid, MD '72, says Mizzou is Columbia's signature. "We are a college town. There is a college with 30,000 students that really defines our city."

Mayor Bob McDavid likes black-and-gold buses.



Ticket to ride

Fewer than 20 minutes from campus, **Columbia Regional Airport** schedules three Delta Air Lines flights daily (two on Saturdays) to Memphis International Airport, which connects to cities across the nation and around the world.



Need a ride to the St. Louis or Kansas City airports? **MO-X** makes 12 round trips daily to St. Louis and five to Kansas City. Door-to-door service is available.



Columbia is a **Megabus.com** stop. For as little as \$1 each way, ride single- or double-deck buses traveling express routes between Columbia, Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City. Buses feature Wi-Fi and electrical outlets at each seat.



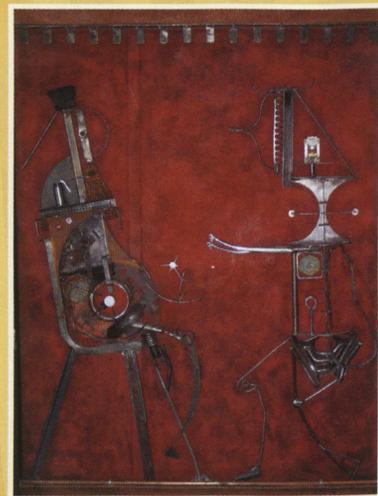
Fantastic Festivals Clever Cuisine Amazing Art



Columbia is home to unique festivals throughout the year. Art in the Park kicks off the summer, Roots 'N Blues and the Heritage Festival fill up the fall and the True/False Film Festival spices up the winter.



Home to more than 200 restaurants, many of which use fresh local ingredients to create a distinctive Columbia flavor, Columbia is a food lover's paradise!



Be it painted or performed, art plays a great role in what makes Columbia stand out.

COLUMBIA
Convention & Visitors Bureau

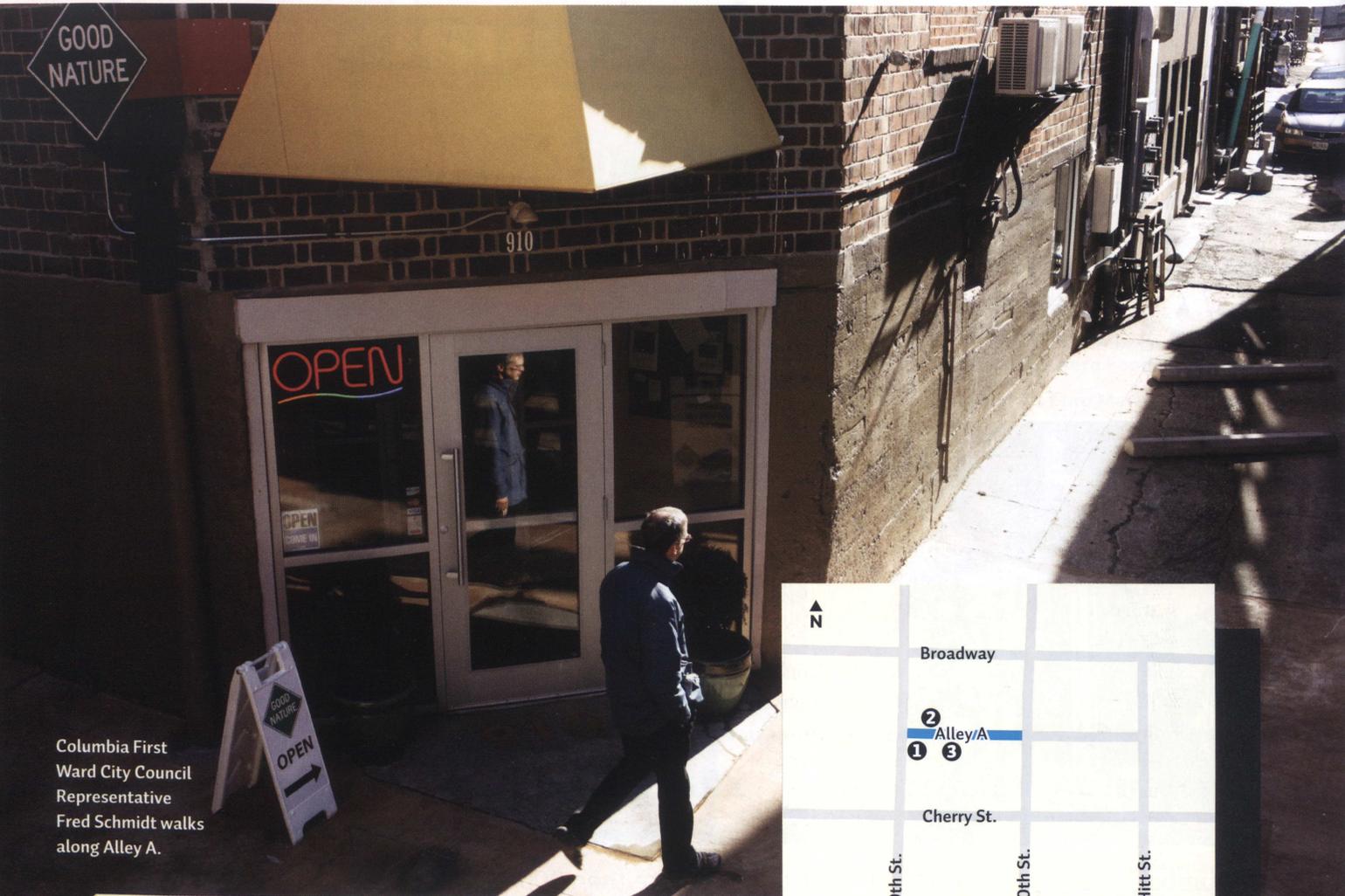
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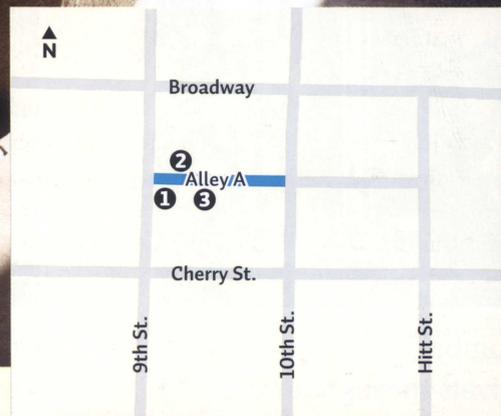
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Columbia First Ward City Council Representative Fred Schmidt walks along Alley A.



1 Jock's Nitch 2 Kampai 3 Good Nature

Alley allure

BACK IN 2007, John Ott, BJ '83, owner of several properties in downtown Columbia, was unhappy with the inefficient use of space in a strip of buildings on the south side of Broadway from Ninth to 10th streets.

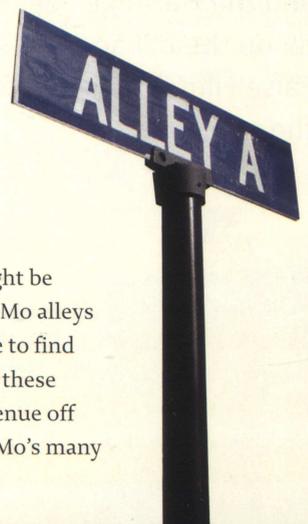
"Those buildings are 142 feet deep, and in many cases, the back sections weren't being used," Ott says. "Also, a lot of people would walk down that alley just because it's in the center of downtown."

So Ott and his construction team added apartments above the restoration shop, **Grace** (918 E. Broadway), and built the storefront of **Kampai**, an urban-style sushi restaurant — all accessible from the parallel rear alleyway. Soon, other developers added more apartments and a "new age general store," **Good Nature**.

The name "Alley A" is courtesy of former Mayor Darwin Hindman, BA '55, JD '61. When Ott sought a permit to begin

construction, the process stalled because the city hadn't yet named the stretch of pavement. At a city council meeting, the expedient mayor dubbed it "Alley A" and moved on.

Ott thinks other investors might be interested in developing more CoMo alleys in the future. "It just makes sense to find a way to make use of the backs of these buildings." Alley A, the quirky avenue off the beaten path, is just one of CoMo's many shopping opportunities.



Columbia spree

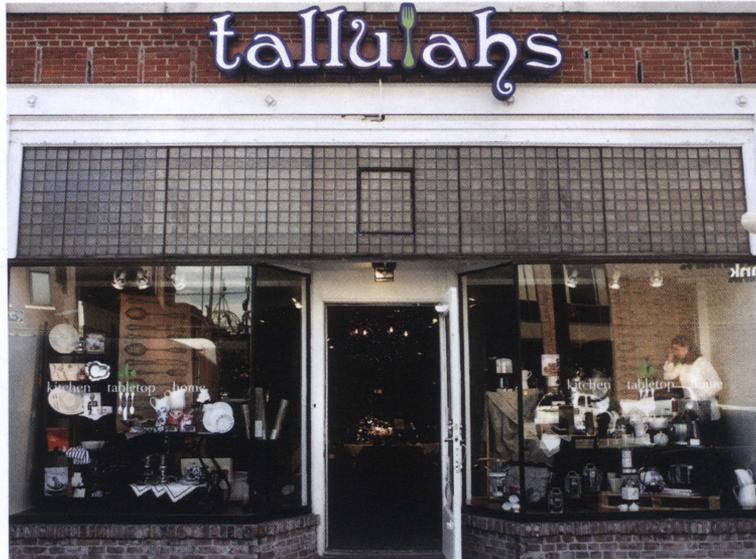
Jock's Nitch | 16 S. Ninth St.
Alumni Hall | 215 N. Stadium Blvd.,
 Suite 101

There was no shortage of places to purchase Mizzou gear in this town, and Columbia welcomed two more spirit-gear retailers in 2011. Jock's Nitch, which is accessible from Alley A on game days (see opposite), can suit up fans from head to toe in black and gold. Alumni Hall — with 16 locations primarily in SEC country — sells everything from Mizzou gnomes to bibs for babies.

Get Lost Bookshop | 8 S. Ninth St.
Nancy's Trade-a-Book
 21 Conley Road

Village Books | 1808 Paris Road
Acorn Books | (inside The Marketplace)
 1100 Business Loop 70 West

If you're searching in vain for a particular used book within Columbia's city limits, it's probably your own fault. Get Lost Bookshop downtown is conveniently located near several coffee shops for cheap lexical thrills. Nancy's Trade-a-Book is well stocked with genre fiction. Village Books recently more than doubled its floor space when it



moved three doors down, and its expanded inventory includes a variety of magazines. Acorn Books, formerly on Ninth Street, now makes its home in a hefty section of The Marketplace antique mall.

Tallulah's | 812 E. Broadway ▲
Studio Home | 1029 E. Walnut St.

Since college towns foster all things eclectic and artistic, it stands to reason that Columbia's home décor and accessory stores offer interesting, useful and gorgeous items for local

abodes. Studio Home, which moved down the street from its former location in July 2011, feels more like a gallery than an interior design showroom. Owners Aaron Dolan, BS HES '97, and Jon Trigg, BFA '98, MFA '03, display an imaginative blend of vintage and modern furniture. Tallulah's opened in April 2011, and co-owners Mary Stauffer and Melissa Alabach, BS HES '90, have an impeccable style-sense that shows throughout every square foot of the kitchen, tabletop and home store.

ALLEY A ACQUISITIONS



JOCK'S NITCH

- Mizzou sock monkey
- black and gold bone-shaped squeak toy for Fido

GOOD NATURE

- Quartz healing crystal
- alpaca fiber scarf

KAMPAI SUSHI

- Octopus salad
- caterpillar roll

GRACE: A PLACE OF RESTORATION

- Six-foot goddess statue
- antique door headboard

Rock Bottom Comics

1013 E. Walnut St., Suite 101

If your Spidey sense is tingling right now, chances are you know about Columbia's leading comic book store. Opened in 1973 a few doors east of its current location, geeks gather here for Magic: The Gathering cards, action figures and graphic novels.



MEET UP AT THE 'BERG!



410 S. Ninth St.
 Columbia, MO
 theheidelberg.com
 573-449-6927

