

# Donkey Coffee owners say they want to capture the flavor of Athens

By **MATT GALLAGHER**  
Messenger staff writer

Bars too smoky? Prefer a shot of espresso over a shot of liquor?

Then check out Donkey Coffee and Espresso, a new coffee house in the former Athens Office Supply store at 17½ W. Washington St., near the Courthouse.

Chris Pyle and his wife, Angie Pyle, along with their friends and business partners Matt and Jessica Moore, are brewing their own dream — **owning a coffee shop in Athens** where students and locals alike can take their shoes off, sip a hot joe and unwind.

“My hope is that this place has the flavor of Athens,” Chris Pyle said. “I love the idea of community. It’s my desire to not only reach college students but the local community as well.”

The coffee shop, tentatively set to open May 31, will feature baked goods made by the local community.

All the coffee is from Costa Rica and Ethiopia, with an emphasis on fair trade. The coffee is sold directly from a supplier that works with the farmers directly, so a greater percentage of the money finds its way back into the hands of the farmers.

The coffee shop will also feature smoothies, and eventually hopes to have ice cream as well.

With over 2,000 square feet of lounging room, there should be plenty of space to rub elbows without knocking your neighbor in the jaw. The front is the busy area, a place to grab coffee and pastries for a quick slurp and bite on the run.

The back room is a good

The entire shop will be smoke-free.

“There’s not a whole lot of places in Athens to see bands that’s smoke free,” Pyle said. “I like to see bands in bars, but the smoke just kills my eyes.”

Shows will start early and end by midnight.

One night a week will be dedicated to open stage, and another night will be saved for a poetry reading. The back room will also be an art gallery, featuring work by local artists for sale. Each month will feature a **new artist**.

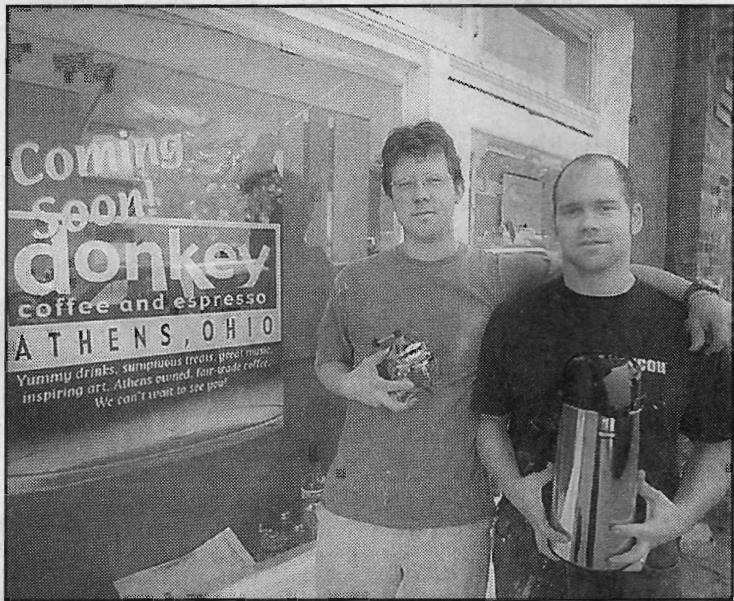
In between the two main rooms is a smaller couch area, a good place to kick back and crawl into a good book.

There are even plans for a film night. Local films, independent films and documentaries will be shown on a movie screen in the back room. On top of all the fun, Pyle dreams of hosting his own spelling bee, with a humorous twist.

Encouraging social justice both locally and globally is a big priority of the coffee shop, Pyle said. There will be a table set up with pamphlets of local charities, action groups and other service groups that aide the community. The table will also feature empowering quotes from people as far ranging as Martin Luther King Jr. and punk rockers.

“We will have information from groups that serve the community, especially the poor,” Pyle said. “We live in a strange area, with the university on one end and the poverty of a lot of Appalachia on the other.”

The Donkey will be open weekdays, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 a.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1



— Messenger photo by John Halley

**PERKING PARTNERS** — Matt Moore, left, and Chris Pyle, along with their wives, will be opening Donkey Coffee and Espresso, a new coffee shop in Athens.