

SEEC banner removed

Group's banner was allegedly stolen from the library wall during midterm break

Rebecca Easterwood
for the Index

An organization's banner allegedly was stolen from the columns of Pickler Memorial Library during midterm break.

The banner belonged to SEEC. Alumna Mona Leiter, who helps advise SEEC, said the group was surprised such a theft would happen at Truman. She said the banner cost the group about \$110.

"It kind of surprised us that there would be that level of prank or whatever from this campus because these banners are up all throughout the year," Leiter said. "We never imagined someone would try to destroy it or take it, or we wouldn't have put out that much money for it."

Jim Kelly, faculty adviser to SEEC, said he was unsure why the banner was stolen.

"It could just have been a random act of vandalism," Kelly said. "... I don't want to speculate that it was the message that caused people to be upset by it."

On the other hand, Leiter said she thinks the message was the reason the banner was stolen.

She said the banner was a white, waterproof canvas with 16-inch purple letters that said, "Don't waste your life," and smaller black letters displaying the Bible verse Matthew 16:26. She said the banner was manufactured at the Slaughter Printing Co. in Kirksville.

Leiter said organizations' banners can be displayed only for a two-week maximum, and SEEC's two weeks almost were finished.

Roddy Grahlén, a Physical Plant groundskeeper in charge of hanging the banners and taking them down, said the banner was supposed to be taken down Oct. 19.

Grahlén said he noticed the banner was missing Oct. 18 and found the only things left were the metal rings attached to the four corners of the banner. He said it might have taken more than one person to rip the banner from the metal rings.

Rosana Lebron, the SEEC member responsible for displaying the banner, said she noticed the banner was gone Oct. 19 and went to the Center for Student Involvement office to see if it was in the organization's box, but it was not there.

Lebron said she checked again Oct. 20 and was told by CSI to go to the Physical Plant department. Lebron said the Physical Plant sent her to the groundskeepers' office to talk with Grahlén, who told her the banner had been stolen. She said she called the Department of Public Safety, but they told her someone already had reported the theft.

Leiter said they would not press charges against the thief if the banner is found.

"We don't have any desire really for any kind of harm to come to the person," Leiter said. "We'd just like to have the banner back."

Kelly said alumnus Dan Sem approached him two years ago, when Sem was a junior, with the desire to start an organization that would evangelize Truman's campus.

Kelly said the organization's main goal is to encourage Christians to obey the Scriptures.

"They try to exhort Christians to live the Truman life and to evangelize those who are not Christian," Kelly said. "And they do that primarily through the distribution of free Christian materials."

Media will move to Barnett

Plans have not yet been finalized for construction of a new communication wing

Kalen Ponche
Managing Editor

Media students might find themselves walking a bit farther home than usual next year.

University officials decided last semester that the Student Media Center did not fit into plans for renovations of the Student Union Building and would have to be relocated.

Heinz Woehlk, dean of language and literature, announced at the end of last semester that Barnett Hall will be the new location for the communication department, which will include a new media center. Renovation plans to Barnett have not yet been finalized, which has some communication faculty and students involved with the media uneasy.

When Woehlk first announced the media center move to Barnett in February, protest from both communication faculty and students caused them to explore other locations for the media center to relocate. However, Woehlk said Baldwin Hall was taken off the table as an option because of the lack of space on the third floor.

"All this discussion takes place in a climate of restricted budget," Woehlk said. "Our first choice would be to stay [in the Student Union], but that's not an option."

Woehlk said that the goal is for all the student media and communication faculty to move to Barnett. This decision was made during a meeting with the communication faculty last semester, Woehlk said.

"The communication faculty and I decided in a meeting — the consensus was to move, and at the end [of the meeting], no one voiced any opposition," Woehlk said.

Karon Speckman, associate professor of communication, who attended the meeting, said the communication faculty agreed to the move to Barnett but only if the administration was able to guarantee a list of demands for the new space.

"We had to be able to move all of the classrooms that we use now, that we'd also be able to move the computer classroom, that the offices would go over there and we could get the designated space we wanted," she said.

Speckman said neither Doug Winicker, the campus planner, nor Woehlk ever told the communication faculty that these requirements would be met.

"We never received word back," Speckman said. "We have had no reassurance, no meetings. We have never received reassurance they can meet our needs."



KTRM dee jay sophomore Benjamin Dansby works in the KTRM radio station located in the Student Union Building.

Winicker said he and Woehlk have not really started to work on the plans or locations for the media center move.

"We are gathering data and reviewing the needs," Winicker said. "We'll be moving into exploring the options at Barnett Hall shortly."

Winicker declined to comment further. Woehlk said Winicker has been given all the information necessary to create the plans, and he will establish a timeline. Woehlk said he doesn't know how long it would take to remodel Barnett Hall, but they would probably not move for at least a year.

Speckman said she is concerned that work on remodeling Barnett Hall cannot begin until Magruder Hall is completed because there are still biology, chemistry, physics and agriculture classes there this semester.

Scott Ellis, dean of science, said there are still some items on the 1,500-point list that need to be completed at Magruder Hall, including repairing the air system and setting up wiring and networking. Ellis said he hopes science classes are out of Barnett Hall before the semester begins in January.

"While we may be ready to go for classes in mid-January, I suspect there will be some offices and labs that haven't been cleaned out," Ellis said.

Sujit Chemburkar, director of the Student Union Building, said phasing discussions have begun for the renovation of the Student Union and bidding for the construction contract will begin in December.

Chemburkar said construction is set to begin between February and early March. He said he was unsure when it will be necessary for the media center to move.

"There's lots of domino effects because we have lots of [construction] going on," he said.

Woehlk said he is not certain what will happen to the media center if the Student Union renovations necessitate the media moving from the Student Union before Barnett is ready.

"It's not something that can be done quickly," he said. "We aren't going to be homeless. I can't imagine a situation where student media would not have a place."

However, some communication faculty are concerned that if construction necessitates that the media leave the Student Union, there is no plan in place.

"I see it as stonewalling by the administration," Speckman said. "They may have great expectations in mind, but nobody has thought about the logistics."

Plans have not been finalized about how much of the communication department will move to Barnett. The forensics department, which is currently housed in Kirk Memorial, could possibly move along with the Index, Detours, the Echo, KTRM and News 36.

With the crumbling roof and molding bathrooms in Kirk Memorial, Kevin Minch, director of forensics and associate professor of communication, said the prospect of moving out of the building into a centralized communication department is an appealing one. However, nothing has been finalized, he said.

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There are a lot of things we don't know," he said. "Discussion in the spring suggests that as plans are drawn up, we would like forensics to move. We haven't seen the plans yet. We don't know if we are moving."

Minch said one downside to moving would be Barnett's location. "There are distinct advantages to staying," he said. "We're in the center of campus. We get a lot more accomplished because students don't have to walk that far to their dorms late at night."

Woehlk said he thinks the move will have both a positive and negative impact on student media. "The negative is more psychological," he said. "The student media have moved [several times] sometimes because of choice and sometimes because of where student media have been located."

Festival features winner of composition contest

Lauren Jackson
for the Index

Last week Truman showcased new talents at the 2005 New Music Festival.

Sigma Alpha Iota, Phi Mu Alpha and the Mostly Live Composers Society worked together to host two days of new music and compositions for audiences Oct. 27 and 28.

"It's pretty much a celebration of new music that's come about," said senior Loren Berry, committee chairwoman for SAI. "We bring in a composer, and they premiere their new music. Along with that, we bring in other new music by other composers and also by local professors."

The New Music Festival is the only event where all three groups work together.

"I think this is a good way to bring all the University ensembles together because we had the orchestra along with the wind symphony, Cantoria, professors performing solo pieces and smaller ensembles performing," Berry said. "So not only was it a way to present this new music, but it's also a way to bring the ensembles together."

The featured composer at the festival was Paul Hayden, winner of the international 2005 Truman State Macro Analysis Creative Research Organization Composition Competition.

Entries for the competition were submitted to festival coordinator Warren Gooch, professor of music. Music faculty and student-composers judged the entries.

Gooch, who also serves as chairman for the MACRO competition, said the judging is anonymous to avoid bias. All marks, applications and indications of the composer are removed. The judging is based solely on the work submitted.

"It's a very time-consuming process," Gooch said. "Usually we go through two or three steps. We get them down to half a dozen and then involve the students and the conductor."

Gooch said the quality of the entries was very high this year. "We really don't get bad pieces," he said. "They're all good. Some are just better than others."

Although Truman never has had an international winner, composers from Asia and Europe have been finalists. Gooch said past winners have come from California, Florida, Washington and now Louisiana, where Hayden hails from.

Three years ago, the winner was as close as Columbia, Mo. "It was really ironic because we don't know who the winner is," Gooch said. "I picked [up the winner's application] and realized he was 90 miles away."

Hayden submitted a piece titled "Filè," which was the chosen piece in the competition. As the winner, Truman commissioned Hayden to write a new composition to premiere this year at the New Music Festival.

"It felt great to win because it's always difficult getting orchestral music played," Paul Hayden, MACRO Composition Competition Winner, said. "It's always difficult getting orchestral music played," Hayden said. "I had my first orchestral piece played by the Baton Rouge Symphony two years ago, and that was the piece that won the competition."

Gooch said Truman and the groups involved brought Hayden to Kirksville, all expenses paid. At Truman, Hayden spoke to music classes about his work and composing music.

"I've talked to the classes first of all about Cajun and Creole music, which is interesting, and [the students] don't know a whole lot about it," Hayden said. "It's a very distinctive culture. It's the only place in the United States where you have a pretty large population of French-speaking people who have their own culture."

Hayden said the classes were very receptive to his guest lectures, and he enjoyed talking to the students. "I think especially when they start hearing my music and the Cajun-Creole music, it opens up a lot of questions," he said.

Hayden said he has been interested in Cajun-Creole music for a long time and occasionally will compose a piece based on Cajun music.

Since he was a young man, Hayden said he knew that he wanted to be a composer. "My brother gave me a guitar when I was nine or 10, and unfortunately I fell in love with it," Hayden said. "I knew from the time I was maybe 14 or so I wanted to be a composer because I was always writing a lot of music."

Hayden said the performance during the first night of the festival went well. It was composed of mostly large ensembles, with the smaller ones performing on the next day. "This was a very difficult piece, and the students really worked hard on it and did a good job," he said. "The tenor soloist, Thomas Hueber, also did a wonderful job."

Other students shared ideas with Hayden. "I've never heard his music before, but I really enjoyed it a lot," said sophomore David Gehrke, who attended the concert to support friends. "I'd definitely see him again."

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