

Electrical fire halts screenings

Grace Mattie
Staff Reporter

Downtown Cinema 8 Manager Jim Fitzpatrick said he plans to reopen the theater Sept. 23 after an electrical fire on Labor Day.

Fitzpatrick said the theater still does not have electricity, but the cleanup efforts are going well. It will need Health Department clearance before reopening.

An electrical fire interrupted the movies at Downtown Cinema 8 Sept. 5, postponing business.

"I got a call from my stepson, who said the theater was in flames," Fitzpatrick said. "I thought, 'Oh great,' and I came down right away."

Fitzpatrick said he was relieved to see the absence of flames when he arrived.

The fire started on the south side of the building and quickly spread to the inside, where it burned through the copper panel, damaging the insulation. Fitzpatrick said the copper material could be a reason for the fire's growth and will be replaced with aluminum. The smoke spread to the projection room, which caused movies to blank out, warning employees and guests something was wrong.

"I was just getting into the movie when it all of a sudden stopped," said Thomas Barhorst, a Truman alumnus who lives in Kirksville. "My wife really didn't care. The evacuation was more exciting to her."

An employee made guests aware of the circumstances. Customers then had to evacuate.

About 120 guests were grouped at the east side of the building, where employees took their names and numbers.

"I'm very proud of my employees," Fitzpatrick said.

He said no complaints have been filed. "We plan on reimbursing everyone," Fitzpatrick said.

Barhorst said he is worried "Transporter 2" will be gone by the time the theater is repaired, yet he is impressed with the reimbursement plan.

Kirksville Fire Department Captain Wade George said that although the fire was small, it was unpredictable.

"At first we didn't know what kind of fire it was," George said. "After hearing the fire make loud explosion noises, I knew it was electrical."

The six firefighters on duty were able to put out the 4-foot-by-4-foot fire without problems, yet damages were costly. George said he estimates the fire caused \$20,000 worth of damage. The smoke added extra damage.

The firefighters entered the cinema through the roof and tried to blow air from downstairs to let the smoke out, but the plan failed. The stairwell was not as airtight as they had thought. Instead of exiting through the roof, the smoke spread into all of the theaters.

Fitzpatrick said that although the fire department did a good job containing the fire, the layout of the building caused the smoke to spread.

An ozone fogging machine is removing the smoke from the building. Employees continue to clean every day.

"We hope to be up and running in no more than three weeks," Fitzpatrick said.

The fire also caused damage to merchandise. The Health Department said to throw out all candy because smoke could have seeped through the boxes, making the candy inedible. Most of the concessions need to be replaced as well.

Fitzpatrick said the fire could have been prevented because the doorman smelled something electrical the night before. Fitzpatrick called an electrician to have the smell checked out, but he was unavailable.

"Everyone was about a half a day too late," Fitzpatrick said.



Amos Fraly and Gaelen Valentine work at the Downtown Cinema 8 after a fire caused damage.

Courtney Robbins/ Index

CUTS | Student wages increase as division budgets and institutional hours shrink

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"It means we have to be careful in where we allocate those resources," Davenport said.

Heinz Woehl, dean of language and literature, said his division also received a 25 to 29 percent cut, leading to some changes in student employment.

"An analysis was done to see whether over several years there was a surplus, and that surplus has, quite properly, been allocated elsewhere," Woehl said.

The division is adjusting for the change.

Woehl said he asked his entire faculty to cut institutional employee hours back from 10 to eight hours. Institutional employment does not include scholarship hours. Student employment was not cut any way in areas that were essential, Woehl said.

"I think student employment is very beneficial, not only for the wonderful service and assistance it provides but also because students acquire a connection with a unit and people on the campus...," he said.

Still, the changes affect some students. Senior Casey Copeland works for two

economics professors. She said five of her hours per week were supposed to be for her scholarship, and 10 hours were for institutional pay. Copeland said her professors told her to cut her institutional hours some during the first weeks of school.

"I don't really need the money that much," Copeland said. "It would be kind of nice to be making a little bit more, but I can get by without it. The only major consequence is that I'll have less time to do things like tutoring, so that's going to maybe affect the students."

COMPUTERS | Anti-virus update inconveniences and confuses students

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"We had [students] coming back with unpatched machines, no virus protection with lots of problems," Warren said. "We had no way to enforce how students did or did not [update machines]."

Warren said ITS fixed 900 dangerous student computers the two previous semesters.

"Anybody from anywhere in the world could walk into a dorm room, plug in and get connected to our network," Warren said.

The new Clean Access re-

quires that personal computers have updated antivirus programs such as Norton and McAfee, Warren said. Computers must have updated and patched versions of Windows as well.

Warren said that when a window appeared asking the student if he or she would like a free update to his or her antivirus software, Clean Access did not remove the student's old program. The system became corrupted, and ITS had to manually remove the old program.

"All of a sudden, Clean Access gets a bad rap," Warren said.

Warren said that after logging into Truman's network, Clean Access requires the user to download a small client that checks for the latest antivirus software and updated patches.

If the client requires Windows updates, the user can click on a link that sends them to a Web site with the necessary patch.

Some students have taken it upon themselves to remedy the problem. Junior Megan Kennedy experienced problems with her McAfee antivirus program that caused her computer to malfunction. She had it working

by uninstalling and installing McAfee, but by Tuesday morning, she experienced another problem.

"My entire display turned a bright pink somehow," Kennedy said. "So I kind of had a pink computer for most of the morning."

Without ITS help, she found a way to get her computer running again.

"I restarted it until it stopped being pink," Kennedy said.

She could not get ITS help when the problem first occurred during Labor Day weekend.

GUARD | Graduate student sent to New Orleans to aid in hurricane relief efforts

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Although the Blankenships expected him to stay in Louisiana for up to a month, Jeff Blankenship was able to return home Sept. 14, he said. He said 10 to 15 college students returned to school from Gretna, and even though he is an officer, he was able to leave as well.

"Part of the reason some of the younger soldiers joined is the college financial aid incentives the military offers," Blankenship said. "For the military to take away part of the

reason they joined in the first place hurts our chance of retaining those soldiers over time."

Kelly Blankenship said her husband told her from Gretna he was glad to be making a difference.

"He kept saying how amazing it was to be there," she said. "Because this is something that is going to be in history, and we will never forget it."

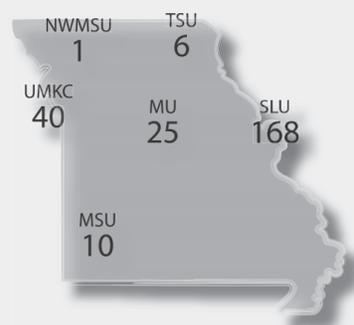
Along with National Guard units like Jeff Blankenship's throughout Missouri, the Kirksville National Guard sent about

55 out of about 81 soldiers to Louisiana on Aug. 31, Sgt. Michael Elmore said. While no current Truman students are part of the Kirksville unit, they did deploy some former students.

He said as far as he understands, the initial timespan the Kirksville Guardsmen will be in New Orleans is two to four weeks, but that is subject to change.

"The National Guard is built to take care of our nation," Elmore said. "It's been a long time since there has been a disaster of this kind."

Relocation of Students Affected by Hurricane Katrina



Designed by Victoria Weaver/Index

HURRICANE | Truman harbors transfer students

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"I took my computer, two pairs of pants, five shirts and my iPod," she said. "Everything I'm wearing right now is all new."

Rafferty stayed with her friend's family, about two hours west of New Orleans, for a week.

"I decided to stay there until [Loyola] reopened, but as the levees broke we realized that wouldn't be possible," she said.

Realizing she needed to choose a different school immediately, Rafferty contacted the admission office and even submitted her class list via instant messenger when her cell phone wouldn't work.

Because she had already applied, she was able to enter classes immediately after spending two days at home in St. Louis.

Rafferty said Loyola is planning to reopen this fall, and she hopes then to retrieve her belongings.

"There's stuff down there I can't replace, too: pictures, [and] ... this really

old camera," she said. "I play lacrosse, and I really want to play it here, but all my stuff's there. My journal's there, and that's really personal."

Rafferty's Loyola friends have now scattered across the country and all have been affected in different ways, she said. A friend from across the hall was from New Orleans. Now, her house is gone.

"When I talk to her, I just don't mention it," she said. "I can't even imagine."

Truman is a different school from Loyola, Rafferty said.

"I thought I was going to be in this city full of culture and five minutes away from being able to do anything," she said. "Not that Kirksville's bad or anything, but I'd just prepared myself for that."

Rafferty plans on spending at least a year at Truman, and possibly even staying for good.

"I don't know if I want to uproot myself again," she said. "It's just been so stressful."

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