

Violette loses, regains power

Repairs to electrical panel disrupt Internet service

BY HEATHER TURNER
Staff Reporter

And then the lights went out.

Electrical crews shut off the transformer that supplies electricity to Violette Hall for a little more than four hours at about 6:45 a.m. Sunday to repair faulty connections within the main electrical panel, which had caused the lights to flicker and dim throughout the building for the past several weeks.

The repairs temporarily disrupted services for about half of the campus-wide IT network. The University contracted the work through TH&N Electric Service's Inc., which originally installed the system in the building, said Tim Baker, assistant director of Physical Plant.

Baker said the problems were isolated to loose connections on the fuse holders in the main switch gear. He said about half of the factory-assembled connections on the fuse holders in the panel were loose.

"It's just weird," Baker said. "That system's been in place for probably 10 years. Obviously the connections were never adequately tightened from the factory, and it's just taken this long for vibrations and stuff to loosen them up enough ... so we could find the problem."

Several custodians had noticed lights flick-



Violette Hall was without power over the weekend when electrical crews shut off power to repair the main electrical panel. The faulty panel had caused lights in the building to flicker for several weeks. Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

ering in the building for about a year, but no major problems in the electrical systems could be found, Baker said.

The disturbances became more obvious during the last two weeks. Students and faculty reported a range of issues to the physical plant, including problems with wall outlets.

"We had a guy that was working on a research paper, and all of a sudden, his computer just ... lost power," Baker said.

"Then we got in there and really started digging."

Baker said the work cost less than \$2,000 and did not involve replacing or purchasing new parts but rather tightening several dozen screws. He said a thorough investigation of Violette Hall's wiring has shown the electrical system to be in very good condition.

Baker said the loose connections mainly affected rooms in the north east corner of the second floor, as well as a limited

area on the first floor.

Alan Davis, assistant professor of accounting, said certain rooms in the business quad were more affected than others. He said the lights had flickered several times during the past month in room 2451, a windowless conference room.

"It's more of an inconvenience than a problem, but obviously, I'm sure it could lead to other problems later," Davis said.

Brenda Walker, secretary of the department

of education, said that until the electrical issues became more obvious in recent weeks, the intermittent flickering did not appear to be unusual.

"I thought that the light bulbs were burning out," she said. "I didn't realize it was an electrical problem."

She said the flickering never lasted long.

"It wasn't like the whole building would flicker at once," Walker said. "It was a light here and a light there."

Groups respond to Art & Science report

Initiatives include center for leadership, special alternative semester

BY JOHN MOENSTER
Staff Reporter

Student Senate and University administrators have been working on two new major initiatives in response to the Art & Science report released earlier this year.

Senior Brett Wiley, senate vice president, said a group of administrators and others from various executive committees came up with these initiatives to make Truman more student-friendly.

Wiley said one of the ideas was the Center for Innovation Leadership, a place where students and faculty could bring ideas for new projects, and the center could help make them happen.

"Instead of the Bike Co-op taking almost two years to get off the ground and having administrators saying, 'No, you can't do this,' the Center for Innovation Leadership would say, 'Yes, you can do this. This is how we're going to help you, and this is what you need to be doing,'" Wiley said.

Wiley said the Center for Innovation Leadership would bring a creative atmosphere to Truman. Wiley also said that when students think of something that Truman is missing, they will be able to initiate change and take ownership for their ideas by going to the center.

Wiley said the University spent \$250,000 hiring the Art & Science Group to identify why some students come to Truman and others don't. The group's final report

identified five areas that Truman needed to work on — the first of which is community and trying to build relations between Truman and Kirksville.

Wiley said another issue is enrollment management and Truman attracting students while combating the ever-increasing high school dropout rate. The third issue was fun, Wiley said. He said he hopes this issue will be resolved

with the recent vote to increase the Student Activities Fee. Wiley said athletic and school spirit also must be addressed. The final issue, Wiley said, is the "Truman shuffle."

"Why are students sent from one side of campus to the other just to hear a yes or get a stamp

on something?" Wiley said. "I think erasing the Truman shuffle would be the Center for Innovation Leadership because it's one place where you get the approval of [different offices] that would be housed under this center."

According to documents pertaining to the Center for Innovation Leadership, preliminary center planning will begin this summer. In fall 2008, students will be able to begin applying to receive venture funds, which would allow them to pursue their ideas while working with professionals. There also will be application processes for different grants offered for artistic innovation and co- or extra-curricular ideas.

Senior Daniel Poindexter, who just completed his last term as a senator, said the real issue is finding the funding for such a place. Poindexter said, however, that the Center for Innovation Leadership has a lot of potential.

"Given my interactions with [President Barbara Dixon and the Provost] I would think that this is something they would support," Poindexter said. "If you have the support of the upper echelons of the administration, you're going to find a lot more emphasis for developing this sort of a program."

Douglas Davenport, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said the Center for Innovation Leadership will be a place that tries to answer all the questions and solve all the problems

that arise when trying to institute programs such as a Bike Co-op or a sober driving program.

"What I would see is rather than it being an issue that gets handed off around through a group of people, there is a point of contact that tries to identify the best way to solve whatever the problem is," Davenport said. "That's the idea."

The second major initiative is the Truman Collaborative Alternative Semester. Davenport said the alternative semester is a set of courses and experiences that would be linked, and students would be engaged in a themed set of courses.

"This could be almost anything," Davenport said. "It could be cross-disciplinary. It could be by major. ... The sky is the limit."

Davenport said the proposal is trying to provide seed money for those who are interested. Davenport said the spending of the seed money would be up to the faculty.

The Center for Innovation Leadership and the Collaborative Alternative Semester are the two major components of senate's BOLD Action Plan. Another aspect of the plan includes expanding the curriculum to include more minors. Poindexter and Wiley said they weren't certain about the specifics of the BOLD Action Plan but that there are several other ideas and plans that are going to go into effect in the near future.

NEWS | In Brief

Denslow wins School Board position

Jason Denslow has been named the next member of the Kirksville R-III Board of Education, according to the Adair County Clerk's Office.

The April 8 election resulted in a tie between Denslow and Kimberly Bailey, each of whom received exactly 1,968 votes.

The city decided to draw names out of a basket because Missouri law does not allow recounting votes, neither candidate conceded and a run-off election would have been too costly, the Index previously reported.

Local politicians vote on voucher bill

All five House Democrats from Northeast Missouri voted last week to remove a private school voucher provision from a bill that would raise minimum teacher salaries. The House removed the voucher provision on a bipartisan vote of 80-58 April 9.

According to a press release from the office of State Representative Rebecca McClanahan, Democratic State Reps. Rebecca McClanahan of Kirksville, Paul Quinn of Monroe City, Tom Shively of Shelbyville, Rachel Bringer of Palmyra and Terry Witte of Vandalia all voted in favor of an amendment that stripped the bill of the voucher component.

The main provision of the bill, HB 2040, would be to increase starting teacher salaries from \$24,000 a year to \$31,000, according to the press release. The voucher component would have granted tax breaks to donors who contribute to a scholarship fund for children with special needs to attend a private or parochial school.

University places third in RecycleMania

Truman earned third place in the Per Capita Classic portion of the RecycleMania 2008 contest, according to the contest's Web site.

Four hundred colleges and universities nationwide competed to reduce, reuse and recycle from January 27 to April 5, according to a press release. Schools participating in RecycleMania 2008 produced more than 58 million pounds of recyclables and organics.

Schools were split into two divisions — those participating across their entire campus and those with only a subsection participating. Truman participated in the Per Capita Classic category of the whole-campus division, which measures the largest amount of recyclables per person.

Hospice volunteers will be recognized

Hospice of Northeast Missouri will host an appreciation dinner in honor of its volunteers April 29, according to Terrill Roberts, coordinator of volunteer services for Hospice of Northeast Missouri.

The following volunteers are Truman students and will be recognized at the dinner — sophomore Ann Bruno, junior Chaeli Dougherty, freshman Ashley Hartman, sophomore Julie Hasken, junior Nancy Johnson, senior Laura Kresl, junior Leslie Moss, junior Teresa Nydegger, sophomore Jenna Osseck, freshman Michelle Pickens, senior Erin Randall, freshman Deseree Raygor, freshman Megan Temme and junior Rebecca Verhaeghe.

The dinner will take place at Ponderosa, also according to Roberts.

Hospital celebrates Donate Life Month

In recognition of National Donate Life Month, Northeast Regional Medical center hosted a Gift of Life celebration Wednesday on the A.T. Still University Centennial Commons, according to a press release from the Northeast Regional Medical Center.

The ceremony included testimonials from area donors and recipient families and a presentation about eye donations by Dr. Laurence Miller. There currently are more than 3,200 Missourians on the organ and tissue transplant list, also according to the press release.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Senate passed a money motion to add \$1,000 for HIV testing to standing budget next fall.
- Senate passed a money motion to spend \$60 on pear trees for Red Barn Park for Arbor Day.
- Senate discussed revising the Student Vision Document.

DPS | Reports

- 4/20 Report of property damage in Centennial Hall
- 4/20 Sophomore Kuzanga Makano was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 4/19 Sophomore Joanna Nelson was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 4/18 Report of property damage outside the Student Recreation Center
- 4/14 Report of theft in Ophelia Parish

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