

Projects dirty Davis Street

BY MARIAH BOHANON
Staff Reporter

Davis Street is bustling with building construction crews, but some drivers might find the road itself in sore need of repair.

"It's construction," Missouri Hall housekeeper Toby Peavler said. "You're going to have a little bit of a mess."

Peavler said she drives on Davis Street and parks in the residence hall parking lot when going to work. The construction crews aren't responsible for damages and maintenance to the road, she said.

Campus Planner Mark Schultz said two different construction projects are in progress on opposite sides of Davis Street.

The University is remodeling Blanton, Nason and Brewer residence halls. In addition, the Newman Center is under construction across the street from campus at 907 S. Davis.

John Buckwalter, director of the Kirksville public works department, said that if a street is damaged due to private construction, the contractors are held accountable. Buckwalter said an example of contractor liability would be that a construction

crew demolishes a street curb while building a parking lot, then the company would have to repair the curb.

"Of course with work like that going on, they may track mud or something onto the street to where it needs to be cleaned up," Buckwalter said. "At that point our codes department would contact them and tell the contractor to clean it up."

With two construction crews working simultaneously, Buckwalter said he can tell who is responsible for any mess by simply determining from which side of the street mud is being tracked. The contractors who are building the Newman Center already have been asked by the codes department to clean up the

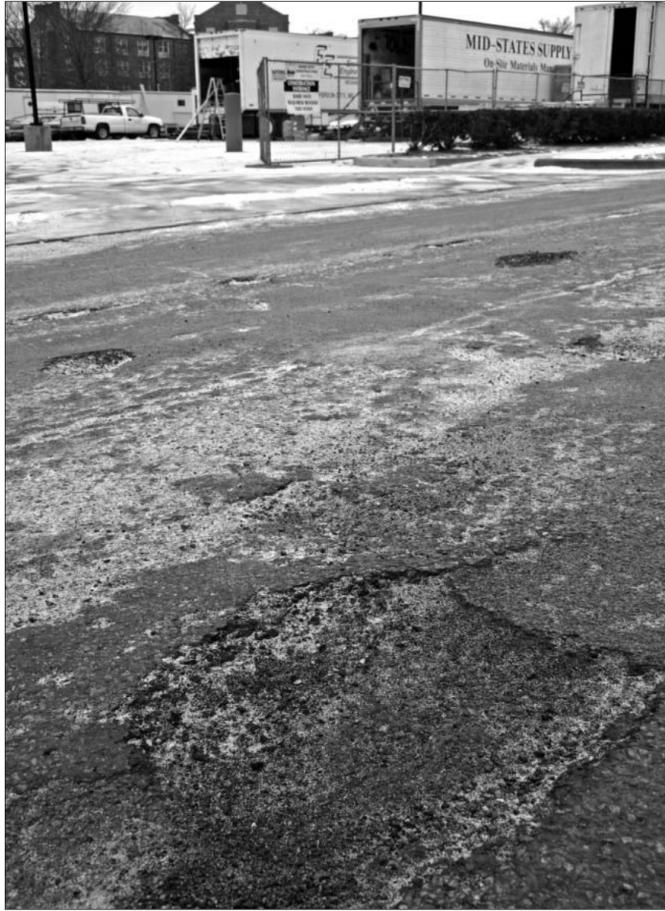
"Of course with work like that going on, [contractors] may track mud or something onto the street to where it needs to be cleaned up."

John Buckwalter
Director of Kirksville
Public Works Department

street, he said. "I just drove down that street a short while ago, and all the mud and debris was cleaned up," Buckwalter said.

Buckwalter said there are rough patches on Davis Street not caused by the current construction. Potholes and other problems will be repaired by the city, he said.

"We're repairing potholes all over town, but with the cold weather it's kind of hard," Buckwalter said.



Mark Hardy/Index

Potholes have formed on Davis Street, which runs behind three residence halls. Officials have said ongoing construction is not causing the pocks in the street.

The potholes on Davis Street will be fixed temporarily as soon as possible, he said.

"We're just using normal equipment that goes up and down the streets in Kirksville every day," said a source from Sparks Constructors who declined to give his name.

Sparks Constructors currently is building the Newman Center, according

to the source.

Standard equipment, such as concrete trucks, is the only equipment being used to build the Newman Center, he said. The source said the equipment used by the construction crews might dirty up the street, but they clean up any mess they create.

"What about the construction going on around the dorms?" the source said.

"As far as the Newman Center, I think they've suffered enough grief."

Campus Planner Mark Schultz said the remodeling of residence halls should not create a problem on Davis Street.

"The only equipment we might constantly have moving through are concrete trucks [or] delivery trucks," Schultz said.

Program puts focus on global warming

Focus the Nation educates, promotes dialogue on issue

BY CHARLOTTE KEENAN
Staff Reporter

Starting Jan. 30, Truman students can voice their thoughts in Focus the Nation, a nationwide initiative to promote education and dialogue about global warming problems and solutions.

The campus event, planned by seven students in the fall 2007 environmental seminar class, will increase awareness of global warming issues and generate discussion, said Michael Kelrick, professor of biology and environmental seminar instructor.

"In terms of environmental challenges, [global warming] is probably the single largest one right now," he said. "And it's the one that is the elephant in the room, so to speak, that a lot of people seem to be unwilling to acknowledge."

He said his students were inspired to address global warming after attending Greening of the Campus, a biannual conference at Ball State University. There they heard Focus the Nation founder Dr. Eban Goodstein speak about his project.

Kelrick said the students agreed that bringing Focus the Nation to Truman would be a good class project.

"Moving an institution towards changing its practices and policies is a large undertaking," he said. "And so maybe a first step is to raise the awareness level."

He said the events, mostly forums and panel discussions, will culminate in a campus-wide vote

for the top three to five policies to be endorsed by the University. He said the goal is to obtain administrative support for the policies.

"One voice going and talking to the powers that be, so to speak, might be much less potent than having a widespread and broad demonstration of concern with some meaningful, pragmatic suggestions of things that could be done to address it," Kelrick said.

The University will be one of more than 1,100 colleges and universities hosting Focus the Nation events to encourage civic engagement on global warming policy, said Alex Tinker, Focus the Nation organizer and public relations coordinator.

"The idea is that Focus the Nation is reaching out beyond the usual suspects who are already involved politically with global warming activism," he said.

Tinker said Focus the Nation organizers want to raise global warming awareness through a sequence of events, including a live Web cast titled 2% Solution, a national teach-in, a round-table discussion called Green Democracy and a nationwide vote for the top-five policy solutions to global warming.

He said Focus the Nation is intended to educate people about the problems and available solutions to global warming, as well as give a younger generation the tools to create policy change that will begin to reduce carbon emissions.

"We really need to get ourselves engaged with lawmakers and to have the knowledge to actually have an

educated conversation with them about the solutions that we need," Tinker said. "Because it's going to take more than just people changing their light bulbs and riding their bikes to reduce carbon emissions fast enough to stop the worst-case scenarios from happening."

These scenarios include massive sea-level rise, the extinction of species, crop failures, mass starvation and severe weather, he said.

"What we're hearing is that if we don't stabilize [carbon] emissions in the next 12 years, then it's going to be pretty much impossible to avoid those worst-case scenarios," he said.

He said universities like Truman consume a lot of energy and could play a significant part in reducing carbon emissions.

"Campuses have a unique role in that they can choose to go green and reduce their own carbon footprints and serve as a model for how the economy at large could go carbon neutral," Tinker said. "But more importantly, the knowledge of academia is a huge resource in finding the creative solutions to global warming."

Tinker said Focus the Nation is working to mobilize people of all ages, harnessing the passion and urgency of a younger generation, as well as the knowledge, expe-

rience and influence of the baby boomer generation.

Senior biology major Brett Wiley worked with his classmates to organize Truman's Focus the Nation events. He said the University's teach-in will have an interdisciplinary flavor.

"Students and community members need to come and see that actually every discipline at the University can be involved in moving the United States towards being more aware of our environment," he said.

Wiley said panel discussions with professors Jan. 31 will complement the University's emphasis on interdisciplinary studies.

"Students will be able to see that even if they think they're studying in a field that doesn't have to do directly with global warming issues and solutions, that in fact their discipline does have an effect on that," he said.

He said Focus the Nation events at the University will start Jan. 30 with the screening of the film "Revolution Green: A True Story of Biodesel in America" at 7:30 p.m. in Georgian Room B. The Focus the Nation teach-in begins the next day at 9 a.m. in the SUB Activities Room and Georgian rooms B and C.

"Moving an institution towards changing its practices and policies is a large undertaking ... and so maybe ... a first step is to raise the awareness levels."

Michael Kelrick
Professor of Biology

NEWS | In Brief

Schilling's trial setting set for today

The trial setting for local business owner Jay Schilling is today at the Adair County Courthouse, according to court documents. He is being charged for not registering as a sex offender.

Schilling originally was convicted in October 2006 for improperly touching a 15-year-old girl at the 2004 NEMO Fair, according to the Feb. 8, 2007, issue of the Index.

His initial sentencing of four years in prison was reduced in January 2007 to 30 days in jail and five years of probation, also according to the Index.

In 2007 the Index reported that Schilling owned Service Express, a heating, air conditioning and general home maintenance company, and was listed as the contact person for Potty Express and Container.

Blunt will not seek second term

On Tuesday, Gov. Matt Blunt declared he will not seek a second term of office, according to a press release from the same day. He announced his decision through a television address.

Blunt said the fact he has accomplished everything he set out to do as governor is his primary reason for not seeking a second term, also according to the release.

Blunt cited turning a \$1.1 billion deficit into three surpluses without the benefit of a tax increase, cutting taxes, generating budgets that will deliver \$1.2 billion to Missouri universities, transforming the Medicaid system and generating 90,000 new jobs as being among his major achievements as governor, according to the release.

Couple donates \$50,000 to University

Leo and Caroline Funk of Columbia, Mo., have donated \$50,000 to the University to go toward the establishment of two scholarships and expand an existing scholarship, according to a Tuesday press release.

The first of these two new awards is the John Andrew Crossett Scholarship, founded in honor of the Funks' grandson, who graduated from the University in 2005. This scholarship will be set aside for political science students of high moral character with special consideration given to those who are involved in the Greek community.

The other scholarship the couple founded is the Leo and Caroline Funk Scholarship, which will be for academically gifted students of high moral character, according to the release.

The couple established the Katie Funk Swimming Scholarship in 2006 in honor of their granddaughter, who was a member of several national championship-winning swim teams at the University, according to the release.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Senate appointed freshman JoEllen Flanagan as chair of the Student Affairs Committee.
- Senate appointed senior Suzanne Barnes as an associate senator.
- Senate accepted the resignations of senior Mindy Maness, Student Affairs Committee Chairwoman, sophomore Jonathan Graber, Student Affairs Committee Vice-Chairman, associate senator sophomore Michelle Landers, senator senior Suzanne Russell, associate senator junior Emily Meyer and Treasurer sophomore Philip Gilmor, who will retain his position but gave up his voting rights.
- Senate unanimously approved the first reading of a resolution by sophomore Lizz Esfeld, Academic Affairs chairwoman, to encourage the University to provide syllabi on TruView during course registration.
- Senate unanimously approved two money motions introduced by junior Kim Burgess, Educator of the Year Committee Chairwoman. The first motion, for no more than \$20, will cover the cost of a plaque for last year's Educator of the Year award winner. The second motion, for no more than \$50, will cover the catering cost of the Feb. 5 reception for last year's award winner.
- The Budget Review Committee's report, on recommendation by chairman senior Greg Wisa, was accepted and filed by Senate, with one dissenting vote. Accepting the report and its accompanying recommendations will allow Senate to revisit the report. It was referred to the Executive Committee for review.
- The Senate discussed, among other things, Storm the Capitol, the possible addition of a blog to the Senate Web site, the potential for the Campus Diversity and Environment Committees to become stand-alone committees and the funding of or the partnering with other student organizations to raise money for HIV testing through the Student Nurses' Association.

DPS | Reports

- 1/21 Freshman Michaela Martinez was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 1/20 Freshman Jackie Monroe was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 1/18 Report of theft from Student Recreation Center

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