

Archbishop alters Newman plans

BY JEAN KAUL
Staff Reporter

The Newman Center is facing new obstacles as students and staff push for a useable building by next fall.

The Newman rebuilding committee received a letter from Bishop John Gaydos' office in mid-February that detailed a new plan of action for the Newman community. Amid concerns that Newman will not be able to raise sufficient funds to finish the project, the archdiocese has laid down new time and money stipulations for the Newman Center.

Bettie Lesczynski, director of the Newman Center, said the building is to be completed in two phases. The first phase, a multi-purpose room, a kitchen and a small room that can be used as a temporary chapel, will be built on the previous schedule, with construction ending before Truman Week. Phase 2 of the building will continue as fundraising permits. Phase 2 construction will include a spacious new chapel that will be significantly larger than the chapel used at the prior center.

"The building will still be 20 percent bigger after Phase 1," Lesczynski said. "All of the inside will stay the same as far as the original plans, ... but the purpose of the rooms might be different."

Michelle Raymond, president of the Newman Council, said the temporary chapel will be about the same size as the old Newman chapel with a capacity of 15. The chapel constructed in Phase 2 of building will have the capacity to seat 100. She said the disappointment the community is feeling about the pause in plans is tempered by optimism.

"By waiting [on construction],

we can get the building how we wanted," Raymond said.

As of right now, Lesczynski said Bishop Gaydos has signed the contract for the foundation to be poured for the entire building, but the cold weather has checked the concrete pouring plans. She said that for now, Newman will use the exposed slab of the Phase 2 foundation as a patio gathering place until sufficient funds are raised to continue construction of Phase 2. The Newman community is awaiting news from Bishop Gaydos to continue the construction of Phase 1.

"We're hoping the Bishop will sign off on construction," Lesczynski said. "The foundation can be poured, but nothing else until he signs."

Lesczynski said the letter the Newman committee received in mid-February was surprising but understandable. The bishop expressed his concerns about Newman's ability to repay a loan from the diocese. The diocese was worried Newman would need a \$500,000 loan in order to finish construction because the pay-back on such a loan would be \$50,000. Lesczynski said construction has been taking longer because of the change in building plans.

"Our contractor had to go back and re-bid everything," Lesczynski said. "We had to re-start completely."

Barry Vollmer, coordinator of buildings and properties of the Jefferson City diocese, said Newman and the diocese agreed to the phase building process to make construction more affordable to all involved. However, he said he understands the Newman community's disappointment with the situation.

"[Newman supporters] wish it was built yesterday. ... Having to go on a two-phase plan is disap-



Mark Hardy/Index
Construction continues at the site of the new Newman Center Wednesday afternoon. Archbishop John Gaydos recently suggested altering the center's blueprints in order to stay within budget.

pointing," Vollmer said. "The diocese doesn't have the money to re-build."

Vollmer said he has visited Newman four times since the fire. He said he visits Newman whenever new progress begins and that the primary reason for the restructuring of the building plans is the lack of money.

"It's up to the community to raise the money," Vollmer said. "The bishop doesn't want to give money to a community or parish who can't pay it back."

Lesczynski said Newman has taken an active approach to addressing the bishop's money concerns by hiring a professional fundraiser. The firm will begin a five-week feasibility study addressing the question of whether Newman will be able to raise the money

needed to complete Phase 2. She said she hopes Newman's commitment to a professional fundraiser will show the bishop how serious the community is about raising the money they need. Raymond said all large-scale fundraising ventures have to be approved by the bishop before Newman is able to implement them.

"If we didn't have to process [through the archdiocese] it would move faster," Raymond said. "[Gaydos'] position is understandable, but it's frustrating."

Lesczynski said the Newman Center is counting on the community seeing the necessity of finishing the planned center.

"It's just a matter of time" Lesczynski said. "People will see our plans. ... It's our drawing card. We need a place to call our own."

NEWS | In Brief

Last day for voter registration nears

The last day for Adair County residents to register to vote in the April 8 election is March 12. Residents can register by going to the Adair County Clerk's office, located on the second floor of the Adair County Courthouse.

Those who already are registered must notify the County Clerk's office if they have had a name or address change.

April ballot items include an economic development sales tax that would fund the alternate U.S. Highway 63 route project and the election of three new City Council members.

Man injured in Dukum fight Saturday

Twenty-three-year-old Brad Martin, a resident of Overland Park, Kan., was knocked unconscious at the Dukum Inn Saturday night.

Martin walked into the bar, bumped into a pool table and disrupted the game, said Sgt. Steve Farnsworth of the Kirksville Police Department. One of the billiards players proceeded to shove Martin to the ground. Martin was taken away in an ambulance, Farnsworth said.

He also said no arrests have been made in the incident.

Leaky pipe shuts off Internet in Pershing

A damaged steam pipe left Pershing Building without Internet service for about six hours Monday.

Matt Farwell, assistant director of Information Technology Services, said the pipe rusted through and ruptured, spilling hot steam and water onto the cable. After being notified of the problem, ITS set up a temporary DSL line in Pershing, Farwell said.

The department then hired a contractor who repaired the cable Tuesday. Internet service to the building has been fully restored, he added.

Bike Co-op makes progress, purchases

The University has purchased insurance to cover the operational risks of the Bike Co-op, according to a press release from Monday.

Lou Ann Gilchrist, dean of student affairs, and University President Barbara Dixon signed the requisition for the insurance Feb. 29.

The Co-op soon will purchase more than \$1,500 worth of tools and bicycle parts, according to the release. Its grand opening will be March 28 and 29 and will include a critical mass ride and Squirrel Fest, among other events.

Members of the Co-op will have access to tools and mechanical assistance, plus the opportunity to buy parts and merchandise and participate in skills workshops, according to the release.

The Bike Co-op building is located in the garage next to the Multicultural Affairs Center.

Council approves Geno's liquor license

The City Council voted Tuesday night in favor of granting a liquor license to Geno's 70's Club. The liquor license was passed by a vote of three to one, with councilmember Aaron Rodgerson casting the only negative vote.

The club, which Kirksville resident Randy Treasure planned to open in early March, was denied a liquor license by the Council at its last meeting, according to the Feb. 28 issue of the Index.

Treasure will have to obtain a business license for the Club before the liquor license will be granted.

Sheriff's Dept. to ramp up enforcement

The Adair County Sheriff's Department will be cracking down on drunk driving with increased enforcement from March 14 to 17, according to a press release from Monday.

The sheriff's department will be collaborating with the Adair County Drug Coalition, which will fund overtime saturation operations in Kirksville and Adair County, according to the release.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Student Senate did not meet Sunday, March 2, because of the International Dinner.

DPS | Reports

- 3/2 Ryan Koons was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 3/1 Report of bicycle theft outside of Missouri Hall
- 3/1 Joseph Waddle was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 2/26 Report of theft in West Campus Suites
- 2/25 Report of bicycle theft outside of Ryle Hall

Classes provide outreach opportunity

Service-learning courses still remain unknown to most students

BY ALEX HALFMANN
for the Index

Service-learning offers new learning experiences and allows students to help the community while gaining educational knowledge.

There are two forms of service-learning: academic service-learning and Service-Learning Advantage. Academic service-learning takes place in classrooms, and the Service-Learning Advantage program involves student organizations hosting activities that promote an educational experience and provide assistance to the community.

"Essentially the students are the ones that are serving the impoverished portion of the population by helping support those community agencies and helping implement programs directed towards people in poverty," said Kelsey Aurand de Razo, AmeriCorps*VISTA member and Service-Learning coordinator for the University.

Five academic service-learning classes are taking on nine projects. These include reconstructing a garden at a nursing home, providing an energy awareness program for children and creating a nutritious cookbook from the ingredients the Food Depot provides.

Aurand de Razo said an academic

service-learning course begins when a faculty member approaches her with an interest in incorporating a service-learning project into a course. To be classified as service-learning, the project must meet at least some of the learning objectives from the course and must include meaningful reflection on the students' part.

Michael Kelrick, professor of biology and director of interdisciplinary studies, is the faculty adviser to Grassroots Environmentalism and Intro to Environmental Studies, both of which are service-learning classes.

Kelrick said the Grassroots Environmentalism course is an outgrowth of another course, Expanding Environmental Consciousness, which contained a component involving students participating in some sort of service project, most commonly helping and learning from the Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage community.

Kelrick said the nine students in his class are split into teams of three. He said each team is led by a student preceptor, who helps teach the course.

"The whole goal of the course is for the students to brainstorm and generate the nature of the projects themselves," Kelrick said. "The role of the preceptors and myself ... in conjunction with Kelsey [Aurand de Razo] is to mold their ideas into a workable project that can be implemented."

Kelrick said the three projects are building a gardening bed at Kirksville Manor Care Center, setting up a recycling program in Novinger to benefit

Community Opportunities and developing educational programming through the University Bike Co-op for high school students to learn how to maintain, fix, refurbish and build bikes.

Sophomore Lizz Esfeld, academic affairs chair for Student Senate, said she is working with the Undergraduate Council to make students more aware of service-learning when registering for classes.

"We want to let students know what they are registering for, and we want students to get credit for their work," Esfeld said. "We also want to allow the teachers to have a record showing they had done a service-learning course."

Esfeld said Student Senate passed a resolution to the Undergraduate Council and that it will be discussed at today's meeting and voted on next month.

She said the resolution included a designation of courses as service-learning during registration and that the course be marked appropriately on student transcripts.

The second form of service-learning is Service-Learning Advantage, which allows the students to engage in co-curricular learning.

Aurand de Razo said the Service-Learning Advantage program was developed in direct response to student leaders' inquiries.

"With Service-Learning Advantage we saw the need because we had these student leaders come in and speak with us, and we origi-

nally didn't know how to deal with that because we needed the learning objective [to classify the project as service-learning]," Aurand de Razo said. "Even though student organizations aren't tied directly to a course, they have the opportunity to show this project they are working on meets the learning requirements that are set out by the University."

This semester, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program is the only Service-Learning Advantage project. Aurand de Razo said VITA is a pilot program for the official beginning of Service-Learning Advantage during the fall semester. There are five or six projects in the works for the fall semester already.

Aurand de Razo said students who participate in a Service-Learning Advantage project can fill out a pre-project survey, attend a discussion session with other participants and fill out a project evaluation about the learning experiences in order for the project to show up on their co-curricular record, which will be available next fall.

Aurand de Razo said that although the service-learning program is new, she hopes in three to five years it will become a common phrase among students.

"My goal for this program is for when the word service-learning is said to a graduating senior, that they actually know what it is, maybe even come in contact with it," Aurand de Razo said. "I want service-learning to be something that is realistic and doable."

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