

# Newman center complete

**A year and a half after total destruction, The Catholic Newman Center re-opens**

BY MARGARET HOOPER  
Staff Reporter

On May 31, 2007, lightning struck the Catholic Newman Center, and the building burned to the ground. It took one year, five months and eight days to recover and rebuild, but with the help of family, community members and alumni, the students of Newman were able to put the tragedy behind them last Saturday.

More than 400 people gathered Saturday morning for a dedication mass and the official opening of the newly rebuilt Catholic Newman Center. Bishop John Gaydos led mass and blessed both the building and the ministry that it houses.

Newman Center Director Bettie Lesczynski said she was glad to see such an overwhelming level of support from those who attended the Newman services.

"We had alumni from as far away as Minneapolis," Lesczynski said.

The new building's floor plan is similar to the old one but larger with an increase of 2,000 square feet for a total of 10,000 square feet. Construction cost more than \$1.2 million, and although insurance covered a large portion of the cost, Lesczynski said she still has a little fundraising left to do.

Lesczynski said she is thrilled to have the Newman Center back more than anything else.

"I am just so excited to have our building for our students, a place that they can call a home away from home," Lesczynski said.

Newman has a close-knit community and that was never more evident than on the night of the fire, she said. Lesczynski received a call shortly after midnight, telling her the building was burning.

"It was blazing away," Lesczynski said. "The firemen said that it was struck by lightning."

Even though it was summer and most Newman students were other places those who were in town saw the fire and started making



Krista Goodman/Index

**The new Newman Center has recently been furnished with with couches, tables and chairs. More than 400 people attended the official opening.**

calls. Lesczynski said.

"The word spread like crazy," Lesczynski said. "By two in the morning, I was getting calls from students as far away as Colorado and Georgia."

When students arrived back in town at the end of August, the debris had been hauled away, Lesczynski said, and all that was left of the Newman Center was a concrete slab.

Newman Council President Senior Katie Werkmeister said that for the first couple of months, students held mass on the concrete slab with no chairs. Werkmeister studied abroad during the first semester after the fire and said it was hard to be away while everyone else was dealing with the aftermath.

"It was a hard year all around," Werkmeister said.

Eventually, the Newman Center moved mass off the concrete slab and indoors. They held services in Baldwin's theater, Mary Immaculate Catholic Church and met wherever they could find a large enough space.

"We have a very big community—

very interconnected, so it was hard for us to stay together," Werkmeister said.

Moving all the instruments, equipment and other necessary items for mass before and after every service also created a hassle, which Werkmeister said raised the level of frustration and burnout in the group.

Junior Katie McCormack said the old community atmosphere already has begun to return to the Newman Center.

"I remember in the old building, a lot of people would just hang out here," McCormack said. "People would come here all the time to study, talk or watch movies, and I feel like in the last couple weeks, we've really started to do that again."

Senior Brian Krzyzanowski said that despite the fact he does not regularly attend services at the Newman Center, he is glad to see the building rebuilt.

"It's a symbol on campus," Krzyzanowski said. "Having it back is true to our faith—something goes down and it comes up anew."

## Residents express concerns

**Questions raised about the benefits and costs associated with the selected green route**

BY SARAH SCOTT  
Staff Reporter

Some Kirksville residents are discontented with the new plan for the 63 bypass.

Resident Steve Salt started a petition expressing concern over the approved design for the Green Route, which will branch off 63 to run around Kirksville. He said he thinks there are several issues with it that have not been addressed.

Salt said he does not know how many people have signed the petition because he requested that it be sent directly to the Missouri State Highways and Transportation Commission to save time.

One of Salt's concerns is that the bypass won't actually remove traffic from Baltimore. Salt said the Missouri Department of Transportation did a survey of traffic on Baltimore and found that the bypass would only take one out of every 20 cars off Baltimore. He added that it will only take one out of every four trucks off Baltimore.

"It seems to us a pretty minor benefit," he said.

Another concern is that at one point on the proposed bypass, the roads will be narrowed to a two-lane highway, Salt said.

"We'll have a permanent pinch point," he said.

Salt said he is also concerned about safety at intersections. He said three county and two state roads cross the alternate route and that he is concerned that vehicles will have trouble crossing the highway.

"It's just trouble waiting to happen," Salt said. Salt said another problem with the alternate route is how it could potentially be confusing. He said at one point, drivers will have to take a right-lane exit to go left or a left-lane exit to go right.

Salt said he thinks residents are still supporting the bypass despite the potential prob-



Amy Gleaves/Index

**Resident Christina Taylor is concerned the bypass will make it difficult to access Jacob's Vineyard, a winery Taylor and her parents plan on opening in May 2009. Taylor says that a bypass of Highway 63 is a good idea, but she disagrees with the current route and plan that has been approved.**

lems because they feel that if they don't get a bypass now, they never will. He said the bypass has been discussed for 35 years and has become something of a local legend.

"I'd rather have no road than a bad road," he said.

City Council member Todd Kuhns said Salt never approached City Council with the petition. Kuhns also said the exact plans for the alternate Route 63 have not yet been finalized.

"There's still room for discussion," he said.

Kuhns said he does not think the bypass will severely affect local businesses because Kirksville is a hub of activity.

"We are the best thing going on around here for miles," Kuhns said.

He said the bypass might improve local economy because it will open up the possibility of a truck stop.

"If we don't do this now, it may not happen in the next few decades," Kuhns said.

Kirksville citizen Christina Taylor said she is concerned about the bypass because it will block off Jacob's Vineyard, the winery she and her parents plan to open in May. Jacob's Vineyard will be located south of Kirksville and west of Highway 63.

Taylor said she is concerned that potential visitors will have trouble getting to Jacob's Vineyard.

"People aren't going to be as apt to come out here if they get lost," Taylor said. "I personally completely support a bypass. I don't

**"I'd rather have no road than a bad road."**

Todd Kuhns  
City Council

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## NEWS | In Brief

**Index, Detours recognized nationally**

Two student publications recently received honors at the 2008 National Media Convention in Kansas City, Mo. Detours, the student-produced travel magazine, was honored as a Pacemaker Award Finalist. The Pacemaker is the highest honor available to Associated Collegiate Press members. It is considered one of the most prestigious awards in collegiate journalism. The Index was awarded second place in the "Best in Show" category for four-year weekly broadsheet publications. Both the Index and Detours competed against collegiate publications from across the United States and Canada.

**Teaching opportunities available abroad**

The French government is seeking applicants ages 20 to 30 to work as teaching assistants in English at secondary schools in France. A discussion of the program will take place at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 17 in Baldwin Hall 272B. Applications for the program will be accepted until late January. For more information contact Gregg Seiwert, professor of French, at gseiwert@truman.edu.

**International percussionist visits**

Nebojsa Jovan Zivkovic, internationally renowned percussion artist and composer, will visit Truman Nov. 12 through 14. Zivkovic studied and lived most of his life in Germany and is considered a dynamic and influential European artist. While at Truman, Zivkovic will coach ensemble rehearsals and instruct classes on percussion performance and history. Zivkovic also will lecture about composition, performance psychology and Serbian and Croatia music. Zivkovic's music will be featured in a performance at 8 p.m. Nov. 14, in the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall. Admission is free of charge. The Truman Percussion Society and the University Funds Allotment Council sponsored Zivkovic's visit.

**United Way goal reached**

Truman has achieved its goal of raising \$56,000 for the United Way of Adair County thanks to Sodexo and the FoodFast campaign. Through FoodFast, students were able to donate their meals, with the dollar amount going to the United Way. Student advisers went door to door in residence halls asking for donations, and raised \$5,144.80 this year. Brad Chambers, Truman drive co-chair, still will accept donations in the Advancement Office until Nov. 14.

**Renowned violinist to perform**

Violinist Oliver Steiner will perform with the University Symphony Orchestra at 8 p.m. tonight in the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall. Steiner will be a guest soloist in the orchestra's performance of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto. Steiner has performed in Carnegie Hall and received positive reviews in The New York Times. Steiner also was a violin instructor at Rochester New York's Eastman School of Music from 1972 to 1992. Admission is free, and the event is open to the public.

**Student Senate | In Brief**

- Senate approved a change in the balance of funds dispersed by the Funds Allotment Council. The FAC previously had allotted 73 percent of its funds to FAC requests and 27 percent to Intercollegiate Activities requests. The adjustment allocates 65 percent to FAC requests and 35 percent to IFC requests.

- Senate approved the FAC's dispersal of funds slate.

- Senate discussed a resolution to offer scholarship hours to students on Student Senate, Student Activities Board and FAC.

- Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$185 for an Athletic Roundtable to take place Nov. 19.
- Senate passed a resolution to form a technology committee.

- Senate discussed the proposed changes to Ryle Hall's cafeteria.

- Senate passed a motion to move its Nov. 16 meeting from 6 p.m. to 5 p.m.

## DPS | Reports

11/8 Megan N. Simmons, 24, was arrested and charged with Driving While Intoxicated.

11/8 Damon T. Locke, 19, was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.

11/8 Joanna Leath and Christopher Giddle, both 19, were issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.

## CONSIDERING GRADUATE SCHOOL?

A representative from Western Illinois University School of Graduate Studies will have a booth located in the SUB (across from Main Street)

**11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Tuesday, November 18**

Information on all WIU graduate programs will be available.

See you there!



**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**