

Physical plant gets a makeover

BY COLETTE LINTON
Staff Reporter

New campus technology and renovations are improving the campus' standards of efficiency. Many factors are being taken into consideration for the reconstruction of buildings around campus, sponsored by the Sustainability Initiative Act.

Plans to remove an old and very large 40,000-pound decommissioned boiler are under contract with McClure Engineering, making room in the physical plant for several smaller boilers to facilitate the campus, campus planner Mark Schultz said.

Two identical boilers will remain in the physical plant in addition to the small boilers. The twin boilers have minimal production levels, regardless of how much of the energy produced is used.

"At a minimum, we can increase efficiency by one percent," Tim Baker, assistant director of the physical plant, said. "It doesn't seem like much, but in terms of the amount of natural gas, that's a lot of money. We have really good boilers, but most of the year [the potential energy output] is not needed. When you turn it down as low as it can go, it is still making too much steam."

Two to three smaller boilers, as opposed to two large boilers, one of which is not turned on until the temperature outside drops below 20 degrees, are beneficial because each boiler works closer to its full potential.

During the spring and fall, the

large, active boiler in the physical plant does what is called cycling, which is the worst thing you can do to a boiler, Baker said. While cycling, a boiler fluctuates between being on and then quickly receding to a lower, minimal level, and inefficiency is at 20 to 35 percent, he said.

Plans for improvements with the heating and cooling systems in on-campus buildings are needed where underground pipes transporting hot and cold air are damaged.

"Some of the piping on campus is 40 years old, and the tunnels through which people can walk through can be maintained," Baker said. "But the crawl tunnels, some of the piping is in bad shape, and it is difficult to fix, and it costs a fortune to replace. From Dobson to Ryle [hall], it would probably cost over one million to replace because [there] would be major deconstruction to do it."

The crawl tunnels still carry steam to Centennial and Grim Halls, and the Kennels and Pershing Building. Stand-alone boilers were placed in Barnett Hall, Campbell Apartments and West Campus Suites. There are plans to eventually install stand-alone boilers in Ryle Hall and Pershing Building.

The stand-alone boilers run at the most efficient pressure and are electronically monitored, Baker said.

In Missouri Hall, each room has a stand-alone boiler, called a P-TAC or a motel unit, a heating and cooling system whose efficiency contrasts with other stand-alone systems on campus. The P-TAC is one of the least efficient ways to facilitate a room with heating and cooling facilities, and they are associated with high maintenance costs after six years.

These were chosen because of the difficulty of getting four pipes into each room. The number of pipes needed to utilize the efficiency of the stand-alone systems found in Blanton Nason and Brewer, Dobson and Ryle. Dobson gives up ceiling and floor space "to fit the pipes in," Baker said.

"I think it's important for the students to know that increasing efficiency will save money in the future," Joshua Mantooth, junior in biology and member of Ecology Campus Organization, said.

He said there are many long-term benefits to be gained through the Sustainability Initiative Act and the advancement toward a more energy efficient campus.

"I think it's important for students to know that increasing efficiency will save money in the future."

Joshua Mantooth
Junior



Krista Goodman/Index
Louis Veatch shows the size of one of the boilers in the physical plant that will get replaced in the renovation.

Debit card overdraft charges add up

BY SARAH MOLDASFKY
Staff Reporter

Freshman Daniel Lynch walked up to the ATM one Saturday to pull money out of his brand-new U.S. Bank checking account. Lynch knew he was taking out \$4 more than he actually had but wasn't worried because the charges wouldn't go through until Monday, but that \$4 still ended up costing him an extra \$20.

"[Banks] take advantage of people not having enough money," Lynch said.

Eighty-two percent of people never accrue an overdraft charge according to a

survey by the Missouri Bankers Association, but for those who do, the charges can add up.

Phil Ratliss, Executive Vice President of Missouri Bankers Association, recommends college students use cash instead of a debit card.

"If it's something less than \$50 — pay cash," Ratliss said. "If it costs \$5 and you only have \$4 in your pocket, you don't buy it."

College students often use debit cards because it is more convenient than carrying cash, said Ratliss. The problem is that some students forget to deduct that amount from their checking account and

lose track of how much they have spent. College students who aren't careful can generate quite a few overdraft fees.

"It's a convenience, but you know if you don't have the money in your account, it's going to generate a cost to you," Ratliss said.

Overdraft fees typically run between \$7.50 and \$36 and are the easiest fees for a person to avoid, Ratliss said. There are programs that help protect people from accruing extra charges. Some allow students to overcharge to a certain point and then accrue a lower amount of fees, and others are like taking out a loan.

Randy Riley, President of Northeast

Missouri State Bank, said overdraft fees are \$20, but a person usually doesn't accrue fees until going over \$10. But to prevent overcharging in the first place, it is best to keep a record of all spending.

Northeast Missouri State Bank will usually waive the overdraft fees if the client comes in to talk with them and has a good reason. The best thing that a student can do is come in and talk with someone at the bank, Riley said.

"If [students] run into problems, no matter what it is, they need to communicate with their bank," Riley said. "That solves a lot of problems."



Are you interested in graduate school but are unsure of how to prepare and be competitive? Then consider applying for a spot in the McNair Program at Truman.

The McNair Program is one of eight federal TRIO programs whose ultimate goal is to significantly increase the number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds in higher education. To this end, the McNair Program encourages and prepares such underrepresented students to pursue graduate, non-professional programs leading to doctoral degrees.

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Truman received its first McNair grant in 1992 and has since operated an exemplary program.

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- 33 Scholars are currently enrolled in a Doctoral program

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2. a full-time student at Truman State University with, at least, a sophomore status;
3. a United States citizen, permanent resident, or student in the United States for a non-temporary purpose; and
4. a student with a strong desire to pursue a doctoral degree.

The deadline to submit McNair applications is November 10th.

Visit <http://mcnair.truman.edu> to apply
or call Sarah Hass at 660-785-5393 for more information.

*An individual from a family who taxable income for the preceding year did not exceed 150% of an amount equal to the poverty level as determined by using criteria established by the Bureau of Census. The Federal Low-Income Levels are updated each year: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/incomelevels.html>

**A student neither of whose natural or adoptive parents received a baccalaureate degree; or a student who, prior to the age of 18, regularly resided with and received support from only one parent, and whose supporting parent did not receive a baccalaureate degree.



The McNair Program is partially funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant for \$255,009.

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