New Arts Center establishes department identity

faculty offices, a box office, scene shop, costume shop, light booth, cloth room, foyer, studio, seminar room and a technical office.

Theater and dance classes will be held in the center, and A Company of Dancers will be able to rehearse and perform there.

The idea of getting a new Performing Arts Center began last April, when the university said it needed the space the previous theater, the Eppley Little Theater, was housed in for the University College.

Rev. Don Doll, S.J., Mazur and architect and engineer Jack Swaney headed the search for a new center. The building they selected was a maintenance garage for the Omaha Parks and Recreation Department. It became the property of the Creighton Dental School four years ago.

“A parking lot was to be built there, but lack of funds dropped that plan,” Mazur said. The building then became a storage space for the university.

$125,000 budget

Doll, Swaney and Mazur were in charge of renovating the garage. They were given a $125,000 budget for the project.

The re-designing of the center began June 20, when the Swaney Construction Company began work. “Just one wall had to be torn down, the rest were in good enough condition,” Mazur said.

Mazur said that furnishings for the center were salvaged from Sheridan Hall and the Dominican High School.

“Marge Heaney, lighting designer, Cliff Dassel, fine arts graduate, and myself salvaged as many furnishings as we could when they tore Sheridan down in May. We took mirrors, lights, windows and doors.”

Dominican High School also contributed a lot. Rev. James E. Fitzgerald, S.J., made arrangements to salvage the high school’s furnishings. “We got the entire gym floor, a lighting system, plus lockers and cabinets,” he said.

Mazur said the center still has to be furnished and students’ help is needed. “We want to get students involved so they will feel they have built something for themselves,” Mazur said.

A painting party will be held on Sept. 17 and 18. All students are invited to attend and help paint the building.

Students interested in helping to furnish the center are welcome from 1 to 5 p.m. and from 6 to 10 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays at the center.

OPEN OVER 100 HOURS A WEEK TO SERVE YOU.

REINERT
ALUMNI LIBRARY