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Old Main plan calls for new theater

Marshall University "should immediately seek funds for the construction of a new University Theatre/Auditorium," according to an architect's report accepted by the West Virginia Board of Regents at its meeting Sept. 1.

Huntington Architect E. Keith Dean added that three sections of Old Main should be demolished, another section renovated and the oldest section, completed in 1870, should be restored.

Dean's firm, Dean, Dean & Kieffer, had been commissioned by the Board of Regents to conduct a feasibility study on Old Main's future, with emphasis on the feasibility of remodeling Old Main Auditorium to serve the needs of University Theatre.

Peter H. Frink, a consulting theatre architect employed by Dean to investigate the Old Main Auditorium question, concluded: "It is quite clear to me that the obvious need for a much improved facility is clouded only by commendable ability of Mr. (Bruce) Greenwood to improvise with the existing facility. The scope of the improvements which would be needed to make the existing facility comparable to normal standards would be very drastic. It would be my view that any cost-benefit analysis would certainly indicate that the sort of theatre facility which is needed by the university would most certainly be a completely new facility, physically independent from the Old Main Building structure."

Citing historical considerations, Dean calls for retaining the exterior walls of the west (Towers) section of Old Main, which was completed in 1907. He recommends gutting the interior and rebuilding it to house many of the offices and functions currently located in the building.

He also would retain the 1870 section for historical reasons and restore it to house the offices of Development, Alumni Affairs and University Relations. This section, one of the five existing units of Old Main which were built at different times, is the second section from the east.

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Funds to be requested for both projects

would provide for simultaneous work on a new theatre building and the Old Main renovation. Funds for the projects are available. Under this timetable, he said, the projects could be completed in approximately three years.

Dean estimated cost: The Old Main renovation/reconstruction would be $41,134,000 in 1982 dollars. That figure does not include a new theatre structure.

Marshall Vice President for Administration Karl J. Eggering said the opportunity to reallocate funds would be asked to providing for both projects during a budget re-
quest meeting this month.

Artists Series to present

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" a produ-
ction by the New Shakespeare Company of San Fran-
cisco, will be presented at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16, in Old Main. The production is sponsored by the MU Student Activities Council and the Marshall Artists Series' Student Division programming.

Tickets to the production are available at $5 for adults and $2.50 each for youths age 17 and under. Marshall faculty and staff may purchase tickets at $2.50 and part-time students with ID Cards also may purchase tickets at that price.

MU students with ID and Activity cards will be admit-
ted free, but should obtain tickets from the Artists Series Office located on the first floor of the Student Activity Center in Room 1W23, to the right of the Student Center Office.

“Having the Artists Series Office on the first floor will make it much easier for the public to pick up tickets,” said Dr. Myron H. Hart, MU professor of English, who will discuss the play.

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