

Reconstruction of Caudill Hall delayed by structural decrees, ADA concerns, other damage

By **WILL GREGORY**
Staff Writer

Complex structural damage and the need to first repair the Ramer Building have been cited as the main reasons for a delay in the repair process of Caudill Hall.

Director of Plant Operations Sandy Forrest stated "we are only in the design and development phase of the process right now."

Most of the damage is located on the second floor. Rooms 201 and 203 have the most damage. Vice President for Business and Finance Beth C. Cooksey said "the complexity of the damage was greater than we anticipated."

Weekly meetings are held between Volunteer State Community College officials as well as with an architect and the Tennessee Board of Regents to assess damage and plan the repair process.

An architect is in the process of putting together a package for contractor bid as well.

Forrest said he expects the process to be completed around October or November of 2007. "For us to do it right

we need that much time," he said.

Cooksey stated that the need to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will result in some important changes in Caudill Hall.

For example, the upstairs bathroom and the elevator did not meet ADA specifications. When the building is repaired, those changes will have to be made.

Forrest explained that changes would also be made to the auditorium in order to comply with ADA, including the addition of handicapped seating. The restrooms and showers in the dressing rooms will also be redesigned to meet ADA regulations.

Cooksey explained that the stage will be redesigned, but is not expected to cost any more than the previous stage.

Discussions have begun with the art and theater groups as to the redesigning. "We are bringing everyone to the table from art and humanities in order to get back to what it was like" she stated.

Forrest also stated that other changes to the theater will include new seating and a new sound system. The

catwalks will also be redesigned to meet regulations set by the Tennessee Occupational Safety & Health Act.

Changes will also be made with the WVCP radio station. Forrest explained that the radio station will also be moved to the Ramer Building and will be located near the video storage room.

He states that "putting the radio and TV station together is a logical move." Radio equipment is currently located in a climate-controlled warehouse.

Forrest emphasized that a strict limit has been placed on how people are being allowed in the building.

A structural engineer mandated that no more than five people are to be allowed in the building for more than thirty minutes.

He also advises students to be careful when they are close to the construction area.

Cooksey also addressed why the air conditioners were still running in the building.

"Had we not turned the air conditioners back on, we were just setting it up for mold and/or mildew," Cooksey said.

Fall Fling to provide music, food, chance for students to join clubs

By **WILLIAM OSBORNE JR.**
Contributing Writer

Volunteer State Community College will host its annual Fall Fling this Wednesday, Sept. 6.

Festivities will include free food and live entertainment. Also included will be booths representing campus clubs.

"Campus clubs will set up tables and will be soliciting for new members," said Dr. Monique Robinson-Wright, director of student life.

According to Wright, also present will be a booth for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee, an organization aimed at mentoring youths.

Wright said all students are encouraged to attend, if for nothing else, the fact that "the students' activity fees pay for these events."

"This is a chance for students to meet and greet the presidents and vice president of all the wonderful clubs on campus and maybe even join a club or two," added Dominique Evans, president of the association of campus events.

Headlining Wednesday's events will be Nashville-based pop-rock band Florez, who was recently mentioned in Billboard magazine. Their set will begin around 11:30 a.m.

The group consists of Alex Florez; lead vocals and guitar; Erik Huffman; bass, vocals; Dana Brewster; guitar, vocals; Dusty Emerick; banjo, keys, harmonica and vocals.

Florez comes off some summer downtime to begin a string of fall shows beginning with the performance at VSCC.

When asked about the concept of performing at a community college, frontman Florez replied, "Depending on the audience, a small crowd can be just as enjoyable to play to as a large crowd."

Florez has been playing together since the bandmates were college students in South Carolina.

Their new album, "The Brooker Sessions," is available in stores now.

Despite lengthy touring to many different places, Alex Florez maintains that the band is "glad to call Nashville home."



Photo courtesy of Florez

The members of the band Florez were recently featured in Billboard magazine and will visit campus Wednesday.