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Tomanek Hall: Newspaper, Design for physical sciences building unveiled

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WEEKEND
EATHER

Partly cloudy
with chance of
scattered thun-
derstorms.

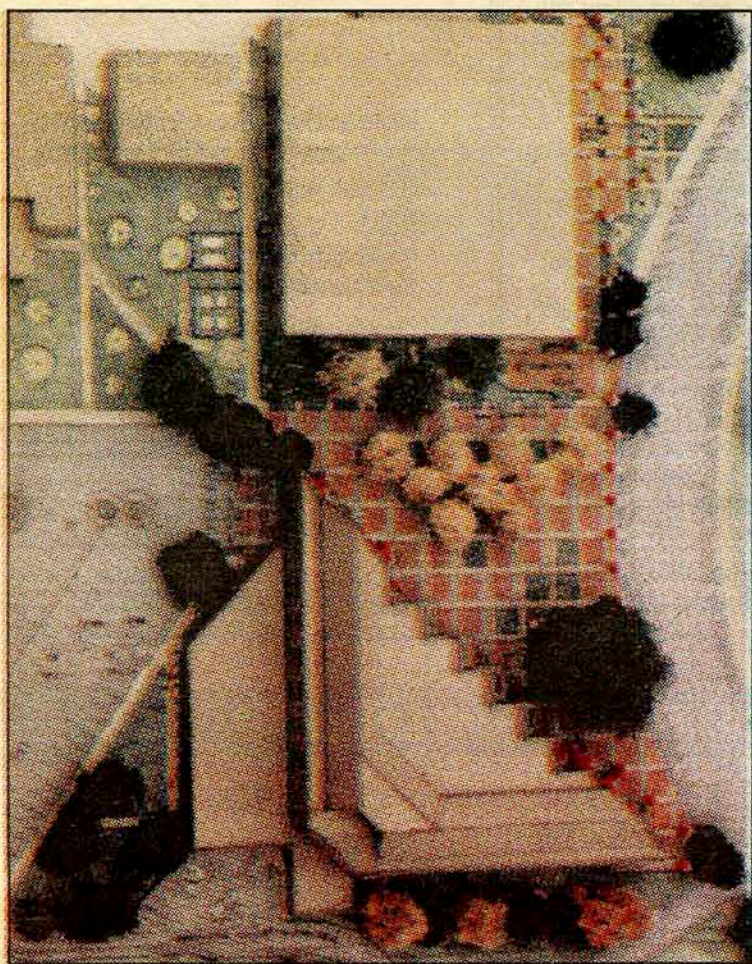
Highs in the
80s and lows in
the lower 60s.

Thursday • June 18, 1992



BOB GILMORE/Photo editor

Design for physical sciences building unveiled



BOB GILMORE/Photo editor

A scale model of the new physical sciences building was revealed at a press conference last week. Construction is expected to begin in May, 1993. The building should be ready for classes by the fall of 1994.

CECILY HILL
Editor in chief

The new physical sciences building is no longer a vague project for some future date, but a reality.

President Edward Hammond unveiled the architectural plans and designs for the 85,000 square foot facility at a press conference last week.

Designed jointly by Stecklein and Brungardt Architects of Hays and Horst, Terrill and Karst Architects of Topeka, the new facility will cost an estimated \$12 million.

Construction bids are expected to be in by January of 1993, and the ground breaking ceremony is set for February 1, 1993, according to Hammond.

He said he expects construction to begin by next spring and anticipates a completion date of August, 1994.

The three-story building will house the departments of chemistry, geoscience and physics. In addition, the academic computing center, currently located in Martin-Allen Hall, will be moved to one wing of the new facility.

The departments of biology and agriculture will remain in

Albertson Hall. Tentative plans have also been made to move the psychology department from Weist Hall to Albertson, thereby freeing up much-needed residence hall space, Hammond said.

The Kelly Center, also located at Weist, may be moved into Martin-Allen to occupy the space left by the academic computing center, he said.

The new science building will be located between Forsyth Library and the Akers Energy Center on the site of the current tennis courts.

"The location of the new physical science building is critical in that it is very close to (the energy center)," Hammond said.

"This building, more than any other building on campus, needs to have a direct connection to major utilities as well as our fiberoptic trunk lines which are dropped in that particular area.

"Putting this building in that location on campus makes sense because it reduces the cost of not having to run those utilities a long way through tunnels.

"More of the \$12 million can then be spent on square footage and equipment and things that will really make a difference instead of being buried underground," he

said.

This summer, new tennis courts will be built just south of Cunningham Hall.

"When (Gross Memorial Coliseum) was originally designed, it was designed with the idea that tennis courts would be built in that area," Hammond said. "We are finally completing, after all these years, our appropriate recreational complex in that location."

FHSU had already received \$3,976,800 million for the new science building from a grant provided by the U.S. Department of Energy. The remaining \$8 million needed to fund the project came from a \$185 million windfall received this spring by the state of Kansas from the federal government.

The \$185 million Kansas received was in the form of disproportionate share funds and is Kansas' share of Medicaid money for costs associated with the care of indigent individuals in state mental hospitals, Hammond said.

Gov. Joan Finney recommended part of the money be used to fund special projects at regent universities.

"We want to give (Gov. Finney) credit for thinking of us and this project as an excellent use of those resources," Hammond said.