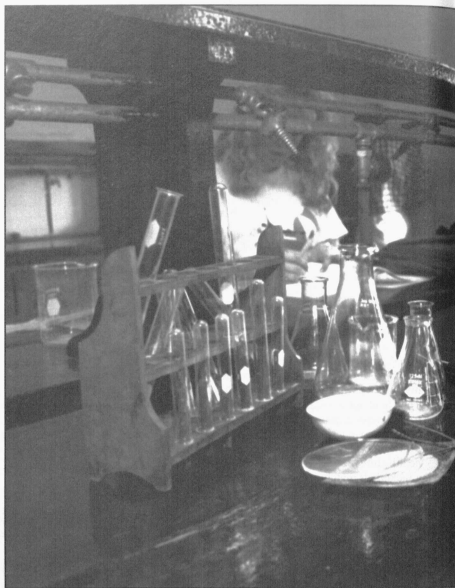


For more than a year, the hands of the clock atop Memorial Union have stood still. There isn't enough money to repair the old timepiece's intricate weight-and-chain mechanism. In Jesse Hall, plaster is sloughing off the third floor ceiling onto the stairway below. Missouri's major public research university is

Showing its Age

Story by JOHN BEAHLER
Photos by TAMMY ATKINS



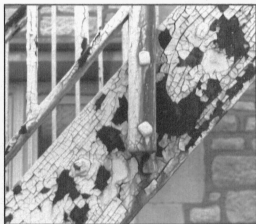
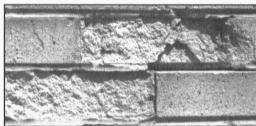
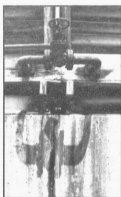
The lack of money for repairs causes more than an unsightly headache; students are shortchanged in the process. Most high schools have better labs than the ones MU's students use for beginning chemistry classes, says Dr. Elmer Schlemper, professor and chairman of chemistry. The six labs in Schlundt Hall are antiques, virtually unchanged since the building was finished in 1922. "We can't do some experiments we'd like to do" because of inadequate ventilation and electrical outlets, Schlemper says. "It's really bad for student morale. We're turning students off to chemistry at a time when this country needs scientists and engineers."

Curtis Hall, on the White Campus, contains laboratories

where researchers are studying wheat genetics. But the south wall leaks so badly during heavy rains that electrical outlets fill with water and short out. The scientists have to set out pans to catch dripping water before it damages valuable research data.

Missouri's investment in MU as the state's major public research university is slowly crumbling. As budgets have tightened over the years, more and more badly needed repairs have been deferred. Maintenance workers coax another semester of service out of a rusting cooling tower. Faculty and students put up with peeling paint for a few more years.

The backlog keeps building. MU needs \$55.8 million to pay for



deferred maintenance and repair projects on educational buildings. As the repairs are put off year after year, the buildings deteriorate even more, and the final cost keeps growing.

In Connaway Hall, a hot-water tank sports a patchwork pattern of metal plates welded to rusted-out spots. It's been patched so often that it's hard to get another weld to hold. When the tank does rupture, the flood of water damages floors and walls.

Until the money is found for a replacement, workers keep repatching the worn-out asphalt roof on the Trowbridge Livestock Center, built in 1968. The roof's surface is almost like a waterbed, with four-inch waves

and big blistered sections of tar that give way underfoot.

The list goes on: Rotting wooden window frames. Peeling paint and crumbling plaster. Unsafe fire escapes. Rusted-through steel supports on cooling towers. Leaks in iron water pipes clamped tight as a temporary repair. Some sections have more clamps than original pipe.

"It's like the old saying, 'Pay me now or pay me later.' These things aren't going to get any better," says Kee Groshong, BS BA '64, vice chancellor for administrative services. "It's not much different than home maintenance. If you defer it, it just gets worse. It finally begins to affect the useability of the building." ☐

Proposition B money would alleviate such deferred maintenance problems as, clockwise from left:

ANTIQUATED LABS in Schlundt Hall contain original furnishings installed in 1922. Estimated replacement cost: \$557,000.

FALLING PLASTER litters the southwest stairwell in Jesse Hall. Estimated repair cost: \$16,570.

RUST AND DETERIORATION weaken the cooling tower at Dalton Research Center. Estimated repair cost: \$38,242.

CHIPPED BRICKS speckle a parapet damaged by water on the Trowbridge Livestock Center's roof. Estimated repair and replacement: \$593,987.

SURFACE DAMAGE weakens the fire escape at McKee Gymnasium. Estimated sandblasting, repair and repainting cost: \$43,252.

