

Donald W. Reynolds Alumni Center

Construction begins

BY KAREN WORLEY

In 16 months, what's now a hole in the ground will be the magnificent Donald W. Reynolds Alumni Center.

Named for the donor of \$9 million for its construction, the alumni center at Conley and Maryland avenues will be in the heart of Campus, south of Jesse Hall. The 83-year-old Reynolds, BJ '27, is founder of the Donrey Media Group in Las Vegas.

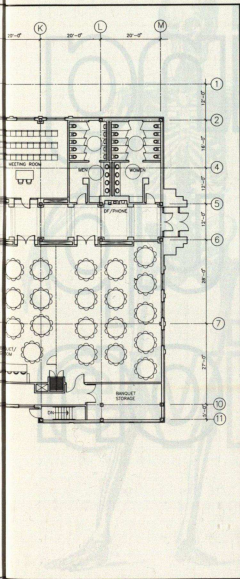
A two-story atrium will welcome visitors to the hospitality floor. The area will include a great room three times the size of the Kemper Lounge in the existing Alumni Center on Stadium Boulevard and a banquet hall large enough to serve 400. The Donrey Media Room will be equipped for teleconferencing and high-tech audiovisual meetings. It will be one of three meeting rooms available. The Campus Club will

have a 30-seat lounge and 100-seat restaurant.

More meeting space will be an advantage, says Carrie Lanham, BS HE '76, facility coordinator. In a recent six-month period, she turned down 100 functions because the existing alumni center was already booked or the rooms were too small.

The center will say alma mater to alumni, says David Immenschuh of the firm Patty Berkebile Nelson Immenschuh Architects Inc. of Kansas City. At the welcome center inside the front door, three walls will be devoted to displays about MU. In the Campus Club lounge, memorabilia like a three-dimensional Tiger and a life-sized drawing of Milt Caniff's creation of Miss Mizzou will shout MU.

Either inside the Campus Club or outside on the east patio will be a



Rob Hill photos



Across the street to the south of Jesse Hall will be the new Donald W. Reynolds Alumni Center. Whitney Mechanical Contractors of Buffalo, Mo., began construction in July. Floor plans for the main hospitality floor include a great room, banquet room, three meeting rooms and the Campus Club. Throughout the four-level, red-brick and limestone-trim building will be subtle forms of black and gold, but the Campus Club will shout school colors through upholstery and floor and wall coverings.



Mort Walker-designed recreation of Beetle Bailey in a booth from the Shack, a student hangout that occupied the site before the building burned in 1988. Walker is a 1948 MU graduate.

More subtle forms of black and gold will appear through materials used in other areas. Crab orchard stone and black slate are accent flooring materials, Missouri walnut will panel the board room and St. Genevieve golden vein marble will adorn the fireplace in the great room.

"The colors and feelings are very club-like," says Immenschuh. With meeting and banquet space for up to 400, this will become "the most important gathering building for functions in Columbia."

The hospitality floor is one of four levels. The Welcome Center and Alumni Records will be on the entry

level. The third level will house Alumni Relations and Development staff members. The *Missouri Alumnus* magazine and telemarketing will be located on the fourth level.

Construction, which started in July, is scheduled to be done by November 1991. At its June meeting, the Board of Curators approved a construction bid of \$6.47 million. Whitney Mechanical Contractors of Buffalo, Mo., will build the 71,000-square-foot, four-floor structure. Built of red brick with limestone trim, the alumni center exterior will be compatible with its neighbors, Jesse Hall and the Law School Building.

Additional contingency and management fees, furnishings, building equipment, landscaping and utility charges will bring the total building

price to \$8.75 million, says Roger Gafke, vice chancellor for Development, University and Alumni Relations and member of the building committee.

Being built at the same time is a parking garage directly west of the alumni center. When construction is completed in August 1991, visitors may take Maryland Avenue from Stadium Boulevard, and be in the heart of Campus within 2 1/2 city blocks. The 1,300-car Turner Avenue garage at Turner and Maryland is being designed and built by the J.E. Dunn Construction Co. of Kansas City for \$6.57 million. Fees from faculty and staff parking will help pay for the red-brick garage with white trim. Spaces will be reserved for alumni guests on the same level as the main entrance to the alumni center. ☺