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CLASSIC THEATER RENOVATION HEADED BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

The facade of the Classic Theater may be the only part of the historic Dayton building that can be preserved, according to a preliminary study by architects. Dean Lovelace, a director in the University of Dayton's SRD-Neighborhood Development office, said architects Moody/Nolan LTD of Columbus have started to develop a new renovation plan for the building based on the preliminary study.

"The Classic Theater was the mecca of black community life in Dayton in the 1930s," said Lovelace. "Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Billie Holiday and countless others appeared there. The saving of the Classic Theater is one way of salvaging the history of what that area once was."

The theater, located at 815 W. Fifth St., was built in 1926. Since it closed in 1959, the building has suffered extensive damage from the weather. The renovation project is expected to cost about \$1 million.

For further information on the Classic Theater renovation project, contact Dean Lovelace at 229-4643.

UD SOCIOLOGIST STUDIES FEAR OF CRIME IN DAYTON, NEIGHBORHOOD COHESIVENESS IN FIVE OAKS

Large numbers of Americans are afraid to go out alone in their own neighborhoods. A University of Dayton sociologist has examined the fear of crime in four diverse Dayton neighborhoods and the downtown area and discovered, surprisingly, that personal victimization and high crime rates are not closely related to the fear of crime.

"The common factor underlying high levels of fear in neighborhoods is a sense of loss of control, a powerlessness to control their neighborhoods," said Patrick G. Donnelly, chair of the University of Dayton's Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Donnelly's findings will be published in the January 1989 issue of Sociological Focus, the journal of the North Central Sociological Association.

Along with colleague Theo J. Majka, Donnelly has also studied urban neighborhood cohesiveness, focusing on the racially integrated Dayton neighborhood of Five Oaks where he lives. According to survey results and observations, Five Oaks demonstrates a high level of "community"--partly because of a "critical mass" of well-educated liberals who appreciate the neighborhood's diversity and partly because of active neighborhood-based organizations and institutions. Their study is described in an article published this year in the Journal of Urban Affairs.

For media interviews, contact Patrick Donnelly at 229-2138.



The University of Dayton