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### How does all of this affect the Drama Program?

The basement under the Walker Center stage had previously been used by the college theatre for storage of sets and stage sceneries. However, a problem surfaced when the fire marshal arrived and said that unless these things were fire-proofed, the basement had to be cleaned out. Not only did the drama dept. lose a lot of their own "equipment" for their productions which, like batting practice for the baseball team, is required of the drama students for completion of their degrees, they also lost a vast amount of space needed to create new sets, which are very large. Another loss of space occurred when the fire marshal designated corridor space to remain cleared to allow for emergency evacuation in and out of the basement, as required by law. Still, when the batting cage isn't in use, it can be slid to one end, so that the drama students can still work in there.

### What is seen for the future?

"Drama and music will be given all of the old area downstairs that is now the Learning Center in Thompson Hall. It's close to the Pit and they'll have a huge area there. Hopefully, eventually, Frank Shuford who is in charge of all the storage facilities, will find some storage space for some of the material currently in the basement of the Walker Center, and it'll be moved closer to where the drama area will be. I know that Drama's had a difficult time coordinating the use of the Walker Center with other Walker events, and with the community that sometimes wants to use it. They do get "booted" sometimes and that's why we wanted to be able to move drama and music; to give them a large, nice area that they can fix any way they want to and have the use of the Pit and hopefully get them some more storage," Dr. Rodabaugh added.

## The Batting Cage and the Walker Center

An Editorial Opinion by Stormie Campbell

IN MY OPINION...

For those of you who don't play baseball or enjoy performing for an audience, you may not think this is a very controversial issue but to those involved, a civil war has been stirred by this issue. The baseball team wants a place to practice when it rains, and the Drama Department wants to keep the space they previously occupied for the storage and building of sets for their plays.

This issue was introduced to me last semester and has collected cobwebs in the basement of my mind ever since. Upon returning to school, I decided to use my new position on the newspaper staff to answer some of the questions I had concerning this issue. Knowing that everyone has a different point of view and opinion, I knew the best approach was to be fair and give each side a chance to voice their views. That didn't work. Both sides were angry and some people would not even cooperate. Both arguments had justifiable points and ridiculous points. But the umpire has made his call and as we know from watching the games on TV all the arguing isn't going to change his mind. The batting cage is going into the basement. That is the command to be obeyed. Although I cannot change this decision, I am free to speak out on how this makes me feel.

I view the John A. Walker Community Center as the open mouth of this culturally starved town. The chairs in the Walker Center auditorium represent the teeth that want the theatre as meat to devour. Each one of those chairs is plaqued with the name of someone that wanted the magic that spills over them when they sit in the dark and experience the power of a symphony, the beauty of dance and the emotion of theatre. They want to support something that educates the mind of themselves, their children and the generation they follow. They want to be able to view a piece of magic not felt in their normal, everyday lives. They want to witness the self-expression of others and to have a chance to express themselves.

The Arts have been cut and deprived in schools everywhere for many years while sports have been given a priority. This community gave the Arts a chance to prevail and once again it has been forced to sit on the bench. The curtain has closed and the Drama team has struck out.

*Note: For more details regarding this issue, please see Shelley Schreiber's article, "Batting For The Drama Department" on pages 16 and 17.*