

# Marian Hall opens as dorm, has giant party to celebrate

By Cami Swanson  
Emerald Reporter

Calling the event a "historic occasion," Housing Director Marjory Ramey participated in the ceremonial ribbon-cutting opening of Marian Hall Monday night.

Approximately 45 residents watched and cheered as Ramey cut the ribbon in the hall's main entrance. After the ceremony the residents indulged in barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs in the hall's center courtyard. The hall's resident assistants organized the celebration.

"We're terribly pleased with the way everything has worked out," Ramey said, referring to the conversion of Marian Hall from a former day-care center to a University residence hall.

"It's just a really good buy," she said of the University's \$2.1 million investment in the former Northwest Christian College building.

Built in 1963, the building once belonged to Sacred Heart Hospital, which planned to use it for its nursing program. But the program was dismantled

opening as the sandbox in the center of the complex's courtyard was unveiled.

"The sandbox cutting was just a little fun thing we wanted to do," explained Resident Assistant Tim Stevens. "The sandbox was here from when this used to be a day care center. As far as we know, its gonna stay."

Stevens, who lived in the University Inn last year, said that compared to the UI he liked living in Marian Hall better.

"As a RA and as a student, it's exciting to have a hand in shaping the dorm. It's not segregated by wing like the UI is, so it allows more interpersonal contact," he said.

Third-floor Resident Assistant Susan Otolski agrees.

"It's small enough for everyone to get to know each other," she said, estimating that approximately 120 students presently live in the new dorm.

Otolski, who lived in Collier Hall last year, admits that small adjustments have been necessary. The hall has few furnishings at present.

"It's been a big change, and a big challenge. But we're doing

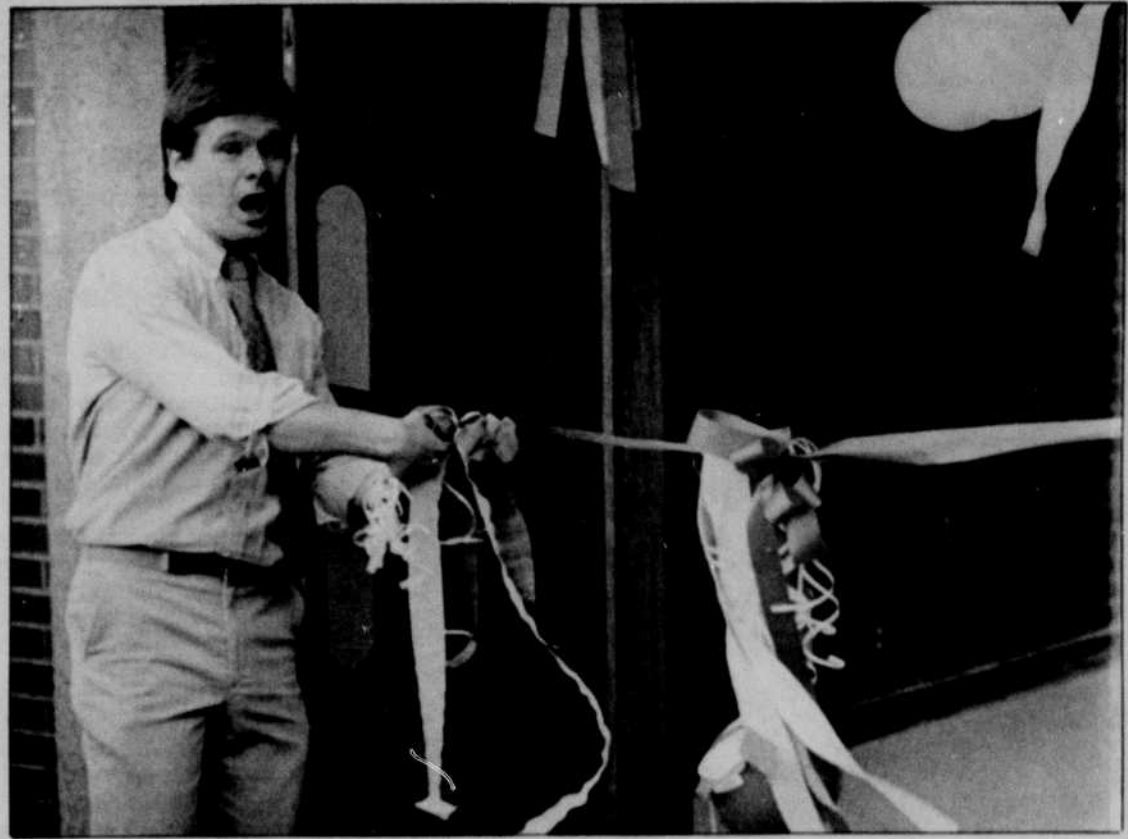


Photo by Andy Cripe

Khain Goldberg cuts the ribbon to Marian Hall, the University's newest dormitory.

**'I wouldn't go back there if I could, it's louder over there, here it's more like a family.'**

— Jamie Hadden

and NCC bought the building. Ramey said it took two-and-one-half years of negotiations before the University was able to purchase the building.

Ramey feels optimistic about the building's potential as a residence hall.

"Although there is no food service available, these are just little adjustments to be made. The building has its amenities," she added.

Following Ramey's opening statements and the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Marian Hall residents viewed an additional

our best," she said.

While acknowledging that Marian Hall has no usable kitchen and that residents must walk to the UI for their food and mail, Otolski said, "It's silly to have a kitchen set up for only 120 people."

Residents of Marian Hall don't seem to mind such minor inconveniences anyway.

"I picked the UI first," said Jamie Hadden, co-chairperson of the third floor. "I wouldn't go back there if I could, it's louder over there, here it's more like a family."

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