

Parts of University campus under construction



Photo by Sean Poston
Gary Thompson of McKenzie Commercial Union General Contractors works on the new science buildings, one of many construction projects around the University campus.

Agate Street project should be finished soon

By Lisa Millegan
Emerald Reporter

Have you ever walked by one of the numerous construction sites on campus and asked yourself aloud, "What on earth is going on here?"

If so, the following list explains the significance of the various University projects:

Agate Street

Construction on Agate Street should wrap up before any of the other campus building projects, according to University planning associate Carla Levinski.

The construction began last year after the city of Eugene decided to redesign the street to provide access to the University's proposed Riverfront Research Park (planned for the area directly between the campus and the Willamette River).

After approval by the University Planning Committee, the city extended Agate Street to the north, past the other side of Franklin Boulevard to the first intersection of the park.

Levinski said the city also widened and realigned the section of Agate Street between Franklin Boulevard and 13th Avenue last summer to make the intersection safer.

Funding for the \$1.5 million project was provided by the state.

Levinski says the entire project should be completed by Aug. 15 after some cosmetic improvements are finished. Workers will be landscaping in the median strip on each side of the roadway, in addition to the sidewalks near Oregon Hall.

Bowerman Track-and-Field Building

Track athletes will probably have to wait until next fall to enjoy the two-story Bowerman track-and-field building, now under construction near Hayward Field, said Laurie Ask of the University Foundation.

The exact date of completion is uncertain, because crews "will not be working during track and field meets and finals," she said.

Bill Bowerman, former University men's track coach and co-founder of Nike Inc., is funding the \$2.1 million facility through the Bowerman Foundation and the Oregon Community Foundation.

Workers broke ground in March at the site, which is located near the bleachers at the start of the 100-meter dash. The building will wrap around the northwest corner of the field, and will house locker rooms and training quarters, as well as offices for the International Institute for Sport and Human Performance.

The building should also serve to screen Hayward Field from strong northerly winds that have sometimes invalidated American and world record times at track meets.

Library Expansion

After the removal of nine trees near the Knight Library over spring break, many students have become aware of impending plans to expand the facility.

University Planner David Rowe said bidding will start this week for construction of the 130,000 square-foot addition.

Part of the new construction will extend the building into the field at the rear of the library, while part of it will include the addition of floors to the current building, Rowe said. Additions will also be made on the west side of the library, near the loading dock area. Eventually, the library will be internally reorganized and remodeled, "to make more efficient use of space that we do have in the library," he said.

A combination of state funds and gifts from private donors will help pay the \$27.4 million bill for the improvements, which will start at the end of April or the beginning of May.

Rowe says the additions are crucial because

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Andrew Ward is a former contributing editor at *The Atlantic* and the author of three previous books. He lives with his family on Bainbridge Island, near Seattle, Washington.

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