



Photo by Sean Poston

Phase One of the \$27.4 million library expansion project is expected to be completed under budget next fall.

## LIBRARY

Continued from Page 1

much (of the money in the budget) as expected — we're in good shape."

There are two phases to the \$27.4 million expansion plan. The first will add 132,000 square feet of new construction to the existing building's 237,000 square feet. The expansion is expected to be completed by November or December of 1992.

The second phase, which will start after the completion of the new addition, will renovate the existing building. Almost every part of the existing facility will receive some sort of renovation.

Some plans for the restoration of the existing building include the addition of a new air handling system, which would maintain consistent temperatures throughout the library; a new copy service room; the addition of carpeting to several areas and the relocating of some service areas and desks to make it easier to find material.

One of the new additions of Phase One is a 20,000-square-foot room which will house the new Instructional Media Center Distance Learning Classroom. This high-tech interactive video system, which the University is one of the last schools in the state to tap into, will allow a professor to teach a class that can be broadcast to other schools in the state.

"This system will allow classes (at different schools) to interact with each other," Bonamici said. "The University will be able to deliver courses to the Portland area (for example) without the professor having to drive all the way up there."

Other additions of Phase One include a new loading dock, a conference room and a preservation and binding area.

When the project is completed, there will be about 1,300 additional seats for studying students, more than twice the current number.

Large tinted windows at one of the seating areas will provide a perfect view of Spencer's Butte.

Although the plans may sound lavish, Bonamici said the finished product won't be anything like the state archives building in Salem.

"It's not going to be beautifully lavish," he said. "We're not using real expensive materials; we're using good materials that are going to hold up."

Many students who frequently study in the li-

brary say that the noise level from the construction is bothersome at times. However, most agree it will be worth it in the end.

"Sometimes the noise is really distracting," said junior Dan Brown, "but once the library is completed, it'll be killer to have more room."

Bonamici said he has received only one noise complaint, and he said he thinks the majority of students and staff are being very cooperative.

The only major setback to the construction so far came when the builders attempted to add the rooftop construction above the third floor. When they pulled up the existing roof, the concrete slab was too rough and slanted to lay the carpeting down.

An extra \$46,000 had to be poured into this unexpected problem to sand down the rough slab and apply rubberized cement filler allowing the ground to be level.

Though they hadn't counted on spending the extra money, Bonamici said this money was part of the contingency fund, which is the "just in case" reserve that most construction plans have.

The addition is being constructed to meet the state-required earthquake safety building laws and will also be flexible enough to allow for additional future expansion.

The librarians working on plans for the expansion are deciding how some of the library books and materials are going to be transferred from the existing facility to the new construction without completely confusing users of the library.

The current plan is to move materials during Christmas break when there are fewer students using the library.

The design of the addition has been a big factor in the whole project, Bonamici said. The library was originally built in 1936 and is recognized for its beautiful design in the Natural Registry of Historical Places.

"We wanted to maintain some unity between the 1937 building and the new addition," Bonamici said. "By using brick and copper, we're maintaining some of that."

To complement the new expansion, landscaping is also in the works. The library gate area is nearly complete and a fountain terrace area has yet to be constructed. Lawns with seating will surround the building.

Funds for the project include \$18 million in state funds and \$9.4 million in private funds raised during the Campaign for Oregon.

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