

UNIVERSITY

New library extension to open winter term

By Colleen Pohlig
Emerald Associate Editor

Students can look forward to studying at the library beginning winter term. Believe it or not.

The expansion of the Knight Library, which has been underway since April 1991, is expected to be completed by winter term, said Andrew Bonamici, assistant librarian for administrative services.

The original completion date for the expansion phase was slated for mid-September. The three-month delay was caused by unforeseen rock excavation and drainage problems, Bonamici said.

The new completion date for the expansion is set for Nov.

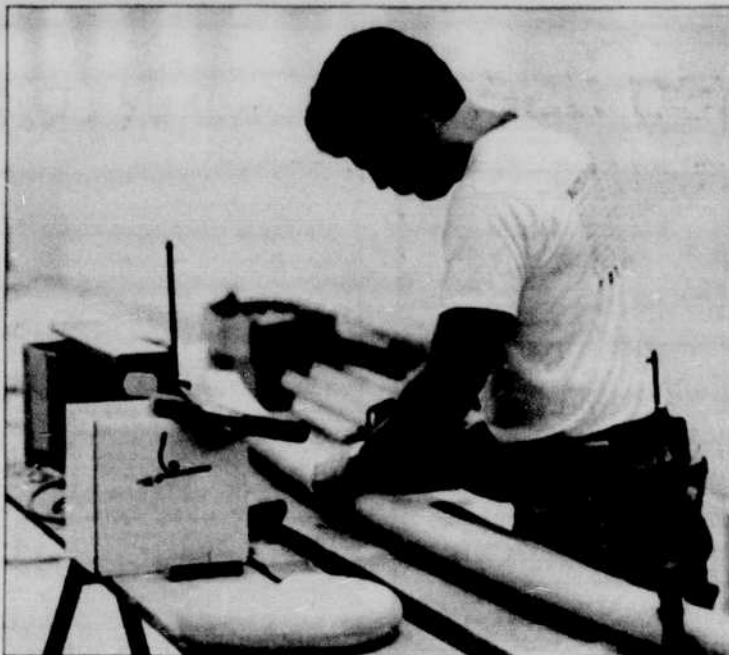
27, 1992. However, the majority of the new building will not be open for use until the beginning of winter term.

In addition to the 132,000 square feet of new space, students may be surprised to find plush carpets, chilled water and nice furnishings in a place traditionally avoided by most students except during Dead and Finals weeks.

"We want to create an attractive and comfortable atmosphere and not have the library's physical environment be a hindrance to scholarship," said Bonamici, who has been closely involved with the project from the beginning.

Funding for the expansion

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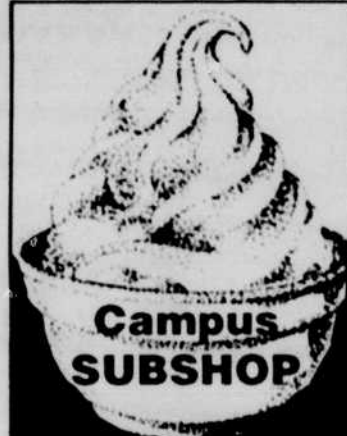
Ken Deltas performs finishing work on a handrail section of a spiral staircase. The staircase, made out of cherry wood, is in the new addition of the Knight Library.

Photo by Dylan Coulter

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Bungee jumping excites, plunges to new depths

By Mandy Baucum
Emerald Reporter

University student Jason Markantes said his biggest fear about bungee jumping was "dying."

But Markantes said he can't wait anymore to take the plunge after hearing a Wednesday presentation on bungee jumping by Casey Dale, president of the Dangerous Sports Club of America and Oregon Bungee Masters.

Markantes said he is now "pumped."

Dale spoke on the pros and cons of bungee jumping to about 50 students in the Bean Complex.

"I wasn't so sure before, but now I really want to go," said Jen Ogle, another University student who attended the presentation.

Dale, formerly a recreational therapist in the Outward Bound program, became interested in bungee jumping as a business when he realized how profitable it was. By forming his own bungee jumping company, Dale said he was able to turn his profits into donations that he gives to various youth programs.

Dale said the sport can be a confidence builder.

"People (who have jumped) break out of a mold and see themselves differently," he said.

Dale said the cords that are used to hold jumpers are the same as the military cords

that are used to hoist jeeps and tanks out of cargo planes. The cords are strong enough to hold up to 15,000 pounds, he said.

The ratio of weight the cord can hold to the weight of the person jumping is 31 to 1 for each cord. A minimum of three cords are used. Up to six cords may be used depending on the jumper's weight, Dale said.

When a person jumps, he or she hits a speed of about 63 mph on the way down and about 68 mph on the first bounce back up, Dale said.

The growing popularity of bungee jumping over the past three years has made it a very competitive business, Dale said. He said the number of bungee jumping operators in North America today has grown from six in 1989 to about 250.

National safety standards for bungee jumping are now being created because of the popularity of the sport. The United States Bungee Association Standards Code is in its draft process and is being considered as a national rulebook for bungee jumping.

Dale said the bungee masters are "anal retentive" when it comes to safety.

"We spend a lot of time on detail," Dale said. "That's the kind of person you want to go out with."

Oregon Bungee Masters has put a lot of money into the safety and credibility of its organization, Dale said. Licenses, permits, engineering studies and insurance have made bungee jumping a costly business,

Dale said.

Each bungee master staff member must spend more than 100 hours in training, Dale said. Even jumpers take a 15-minute training course on how to jump properly to avoid injury.

Oregon Bungee Masters requires that jumpers be checked four times before they jump. A staff member's signature on the jumper's arm ensures that all checks have been made.

All jumpers wear a hockey mask to ensure that the chord doesn't swing and hit the jumper's face, Dale said.

The Oregon Bungee Masters have had two accidents — neither fatal — out of 20,000 jumps. One woman broke her arm and another injured her knee.

Dale said new jumpers should inquire about the safety of a bungee organization. People should ask to see a site operations manual, engineering studies and government licenses, he said.

Dale said he would also suggest jumpers ask how long the company has been in operation and if it logs the number of jumps on its cords. Cords have a limit to how many times they should be used, and after they expire, they should be thrown away.

The cost for one jump is \$75, and \$99 for two jumps. University students receive a \$15 discount.



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