

PLC balconies enclosed

By Jake Berg
Oregon Daily Emerald

Work was completed at the end of August on safety tubing enclosing the outside stairwell balconies on the south side of Prince Lucien Campbell Hall, the tallest building on campus.

The metal tubing, which surrounds all nine balconies located at each floor of the building, was put up "to prevent any future jumpers," said Don Ferguson, the University Physical Plant project manager.

Last November, a 23-year-old woman fell to her death from PLC's top balcony. Monica Margaret Abrams, a Eugene resident, committed suicide by leaping to her death last fall.

That prompted concerns from a number of places, including the Physical Plant, the University Office of Public Safety and University administration, all of whom requested that the balconies be secured to ensure future safety, Ferguson said.

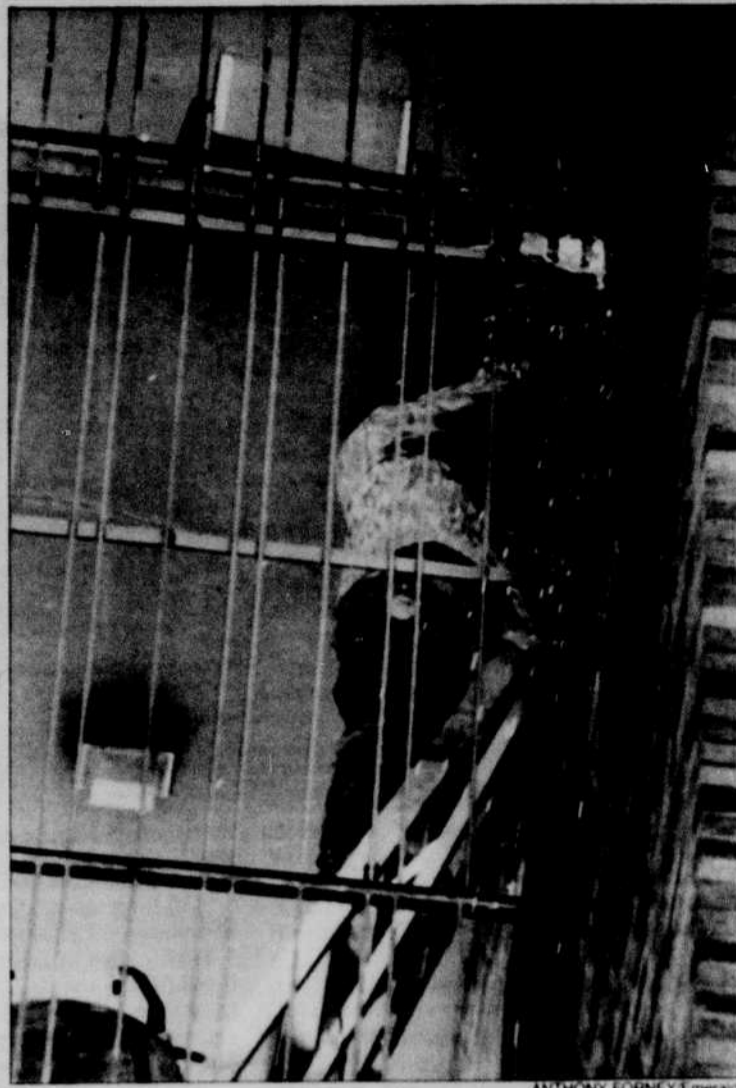
"Several people were concerned after the jumper last year," he said.

In 1970, Leroy Merritt, then-dean of the University School of Librarianship, jumped to his death from the same balcony as did Abrams in November.

The Physical Plant was also concerned prior to last fall's suicide because several objects have been thrown from the balconies in the past.

Full soda pop cans, a couch and a vending machine have been tossed from PLC's balconies in the past, creating a hazard to those below.

Because of incidents like



Workers completed welding the metal tubing enclosing the Prince Lucien Campbell balconies at the end of August.

these, several people tried to get the balconies enclosed; however, at those times the administration did not see that as a

viable solution. Gibson Steel was hired by the Physical Plant to do the welding work on the tubing.

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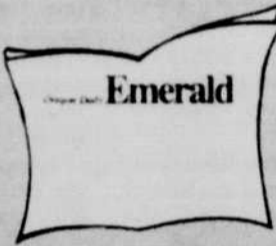
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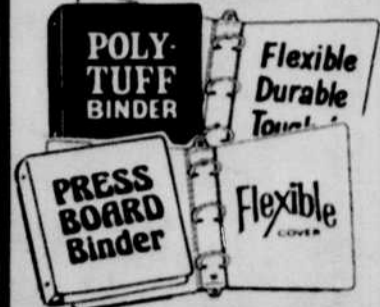


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