

Erb Memorial Union

At the center of the University, the EMU has always been the heart of student activities on campus

WHO'S ERB?



DONALD MILTON ERB

1900-1943

WHAT HE DID:

One of the youngest presidents at the University, he was very popular with students. In a well-known speech he said:

"Be intolerant of superficiality, false analysis, evasion, and confusion of issues. Be tolerant in viewpoint regardless of religion, race, politics, economic status or education."

1974 ADDITION:

Very different than earlier additions, this concrete and glass structure established the Breezeway and the many student program and government offices

INTERNATIONAL LOUNGE:

This lounge is the same size as the Browsing Room in Knight Library. All the furnishings were moved here when the library made the original Browsing Room into office space.

COURTYARD:

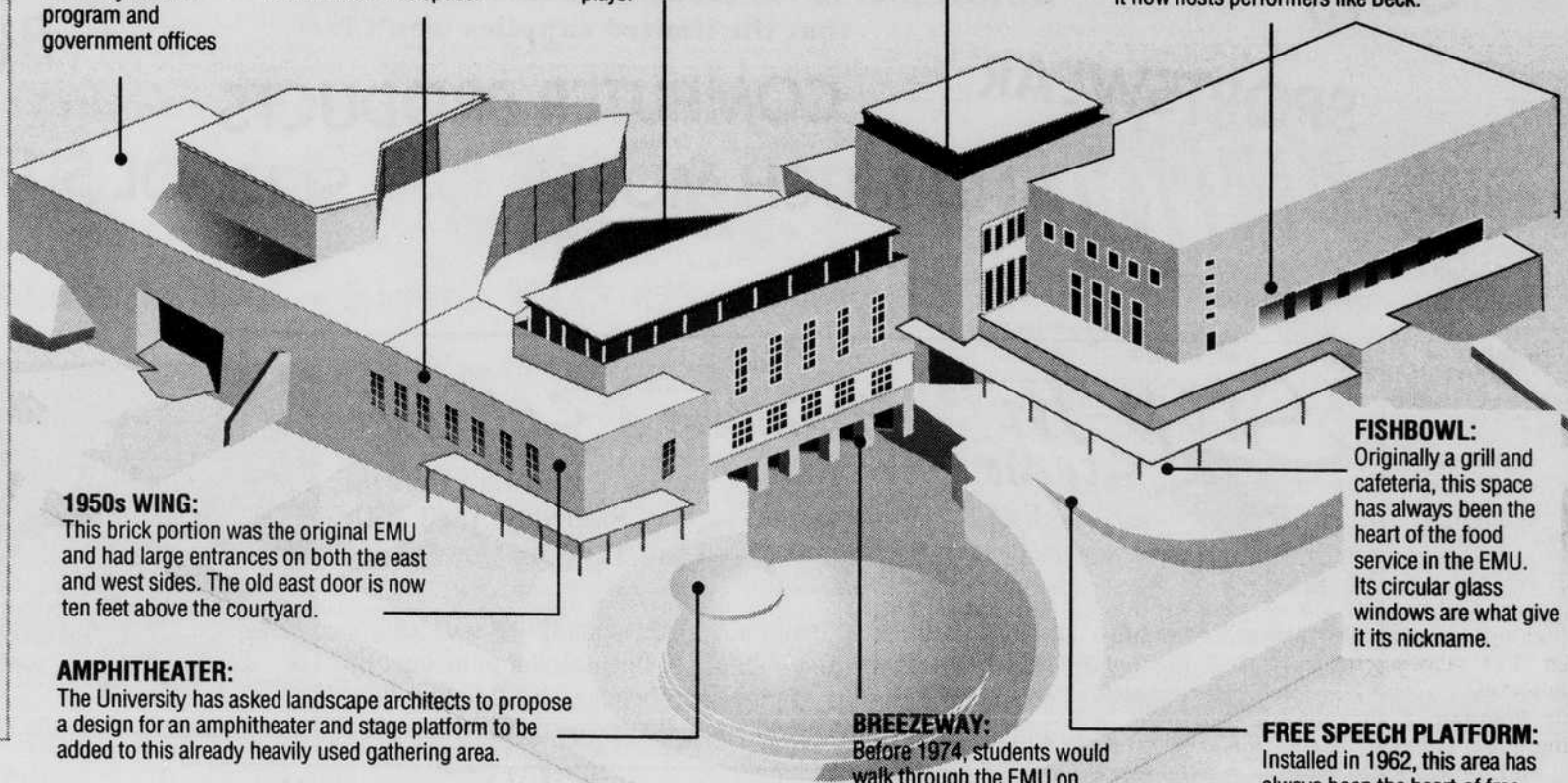
Created during the 1974 remodel, this area is often used for outdoor events like Shakespearean plays.

CHIMES:

Originally installed in 1954, these electronic chimes have just recently been restored and play the Fight Song and mark the quarter hours.

BALLROOM:

Remodeled in the 1980s, this room is finished entirely in gumwood, which was part of the original building's interior. Also the "percent for art" program provided for the etched glass doors. While this room was historically a place for school dances, it now hosts performers like Beck.



1950s WING:

This brick portion was the original EMU and had large entrances on both the east and west sides. The old east door is now ten feet above the courtyard.

AMPHITHEATER:

The University has asked landscape architects to propose a design for an amphitheater and stage platform to be added to this already heavily used gathering area.

FISHBOWL:

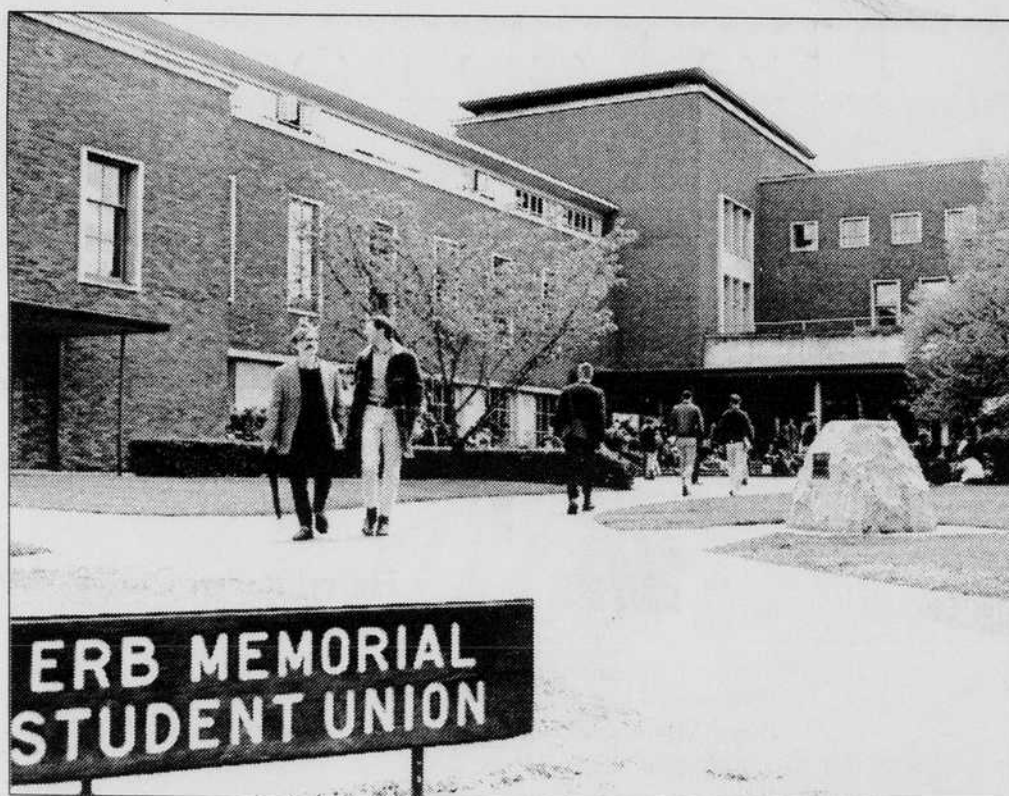
Originally a grill and cafeteria, this space has always been the heart of the food service in the EMU. Its circular glass windows are what give it its nickname.

BREEZEWAY:

Before 1974, students would walk through the EMU on their way to the residence halls. This area was excavated and the Taylor lounge and art gallery were made to span the Breezeway.

FREE SPEECH PLATFORM:

Installed in 1962, this area has always been the heart of free speech on campus. The Breezeway addition in 1974 left this podium almost useless.



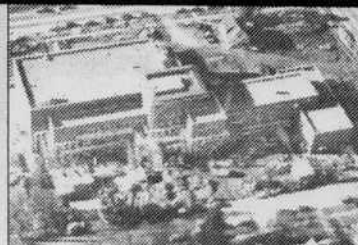
WHERE'S THE BREEZEWAY?

These photos were taken soon after the EMU was completed in the 1950s. Students walk up to the main entrance (left), which is now has a stained glass window above it. As it is currently, the EMU was the center of campus and provided a great place for students to stop before going to class or back to their dorm rooms. In 1974, the Breezeway was added and you can no longer walk right up to the main door, which faced east onto Onyx Street (above).

AN EMU TIME LINE

▼ 1923: Student leaders (below) start fund-raising drive to construct a permanent student union

▼ 1948: Construction begins
▼ 1950: Erb Memorial Union is dedicated



▼ 1961: Southeast corner including the Fountain Court and Dining Room is added (left)



▼ 1962: "Union Square" speaker's platform is built near the Fishbowl (left)

▼ 1980: Fishbowl cafeteria is renovated, losing much of its 1950s ambience

▼ 1997: Plans are made to renovate the food service and recreation areas beginning during the summer of 1997



▲ 1955: Fishbowl cafeteria is added



▲ 1970: Work on the east wing and Breezeway begins

▲ 1974: The east wing is finished and the EMU takes on its current shape

▲ 1977: John Belushi (right) and cast of *Animal House* take over the Fishbowl cafeteria and film the most famous food fight in movie history

▲ 1997: The ASUO begins planning an amphitheater

