

EMU: Fishbowl became famous from use in film 'Animal House'

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dedication to campus growth.

The need for a student union was realized long before President Erb. In 1923, students began a campaign to raise funds for a permanent meeting place for students. According to former EMU director Adell McMillan, the large influx of student veterans swelled the campus population, causing University President Arthur Flemming to push the idea of a student union.

The son of campus architect Ellis Lawrence was chosen to design a union, and his architecture firm worked on plans during the war. Original designs called for a small hotel tower to rise from what is now the international lounge and post office area. That idea was scrapped because it would compete too much with local hotels.

Construction began in 1948, and the new union was dedicated in 1950. Unlike its current form, the EMU then was small but very modern for its time. First constructed was the brick portion that contains the Fishbowl, Taylor lounge and the post office. Onyx Street still ran along the east side of the building and the original entrances are now a dozen feet above current ground level.

The Fountain Court and Dining Room were added in 1961, and the Fishbowl was given its current 1950s cafeteria look.

During the 1960s the EMU was the site of many gatherings and student protests. Because of this activism on campus, a speaker's platform was added outside the Fishbowl.

This podium was intended to help students gather in the center of campus, much like the currently proposed amphitheater. You can still see portions of this platform in the brick wall that is near the Taco Time and Fishbowl terrace.

The most dramatic addition to the EMU doubled the size of the structure in 1970. It took four years to complete

TOMORROW

Animal House was not the only movie filmed on campus. The Emerald's Rhythm & Reviews will highlight some of the other flicks to feature our campus.

the eastern addition which covered Onyx Street and created the Skylight's various levels of student offices.

Along with building east, this addition also made more room in the basement and created the breezeway and courtyard. The child care center, craft center and east lawn were all developed in the 1970s. The University was one of the first schools to include so many student services in their union.

The most memorable year for the EMU was probably when John Belushi and the cast of *Animal House* took over the Fishbowl cafeteria. In the film, Belushi screams out those famous words, "FOOD FIGHT!!" and forever associates the Fishbowl with this famous college movie.

The last few years have seen the enlargement of the convenience store and the inclusion of Taco Time and Little Caesar's. Before that, during the 1980s, the entire third floor, including the ballroom, meeting rooms and art gallery, was remodeled.

This year the EMU will be undergoing many changes. An amphitheater is proposed for the area where many concerts are currently performed. According to schematic architectural designs, both the recreation and food service areas on the lower and main levels would be changed.

Possible further improvements would add a new east entrance, while improving the loading dock, fountain court, Fishbowl terrace and accessibility.

As the EMU prepares to celebrate its 50th year, it prepares to undergo further changes. Because it is used so heavily, the EMU affects the lives of most students on campus, even if they have not seen *Animal House*.

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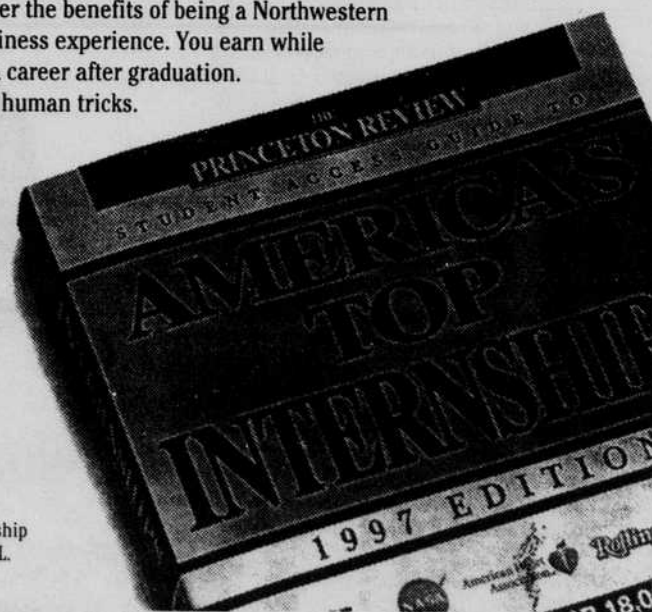
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