Largest state construction job to start at University of Montana campus

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Recommended Citation
University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Largest state construction job to start at University of Montana campus" (1966). University of Montana News Releases. 2188.
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The turning of a shovel of earth on the University of Montana campus Monday (Oct. 3) will commence the largest State building project in Montana, except for the highway program and it won't cost taxpayers a cent.

Robert T. Pantzer, UM acting president, announced Thursday Governor Tim Babcock would speak at the 2:30 p.m. groundbreaking ceremonies for the $4 million University Center in Missoula.

Other dignitaries, besides Governor Babcock and President Pantzer, planning to participate in the ceremonies at the building site just north of Dornblaser Field are Tom Behan, UM student body president, Mayor H. R. Dix, Dr. Earl Lory, chairman of the Faculty Senate; Dale Moore, president of the Missoula Chamber of Commerce, William Fox, architect, Charles Pugh, Jr., general contractor, Kermit Schwanke, alumni president and Theodore Jacobs, Mrs. Olive Mulroney, and Alex Stepanzoff, all of the local executive board.

The Center will serve as the focus for the campus community and will serve all social, governmental, and cultural activities. It will in effect incorporate services now provided by the Lodge, University Theatre, and Women's Center under one roof.

When completed, in the fall of 1968 hopefully, the center will accommodate 1,200 in the dining room, 600 in the snack bar, and 1,200 in the ballroom for a seated dinner or 1,800 for a buffet dinner.

Pantzer also said private financing will be utilized for the self-amortizing mortgage without cost to the taxpayers. Federal loan funds are not presently available.