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Governor says he expects continued progress in state education

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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MISSOULA---

Gov. Forrest Anderson said Saturday he expects continued progress in the Montana public educational system in spite of problems which may be encountered at the University of Montana and elsewhere.

Addressing 200 visitors at a public luncheon at the grand opening of the new $4.3-million University Center, the governor said his office is always glad to help UM President Robert T. Pantzer and other school administrators in the problems they may face in fulfilling administrative demands.

"I look forward to assisting in solving educational problems," Anderson emphasized, adding, "We're going to move forward."

Anderson said the new University Center on the Missoula campus represents a dramatic contrast to school buildings used decades ago in the state.

"School used to be held in the summer in Montana," Anderson explained, "to avoid the severe winter weather. Now enrollment in state-supported schools has soared to 175,000, with more than 20,000 students in the Montana University System alone."

The governor commended UM for its enrollment of 7,200, a gain which he said represents an increase of 36 per cent in the past five years.

Besides the 200 who attended Saturday's luncheon, hundreds of other campus visitors toured the new Center by themselves or escorted by members of Bear Paws and Spurs, sophomore service groups on campus for men and coeds, respectively.

During Saturday's luncheon, Pantzer presented Edward J. Leary with a giant key to the University Center in recognition of the building as a student-financed facility. Leary is president of the Associated Students at UM.
Pantzer emphasized that the University Center "is being paid for from student fees," that the building "is not either built or operated with tax monies."

"In that sense," he continued, "it is self-liquidating and does not involve use of appropriations or the state building program resources."

Stressing the total impact of the University Center on the campus, Pantzer said, "Though we really open a building today, beyond that, we bring about the somewhat drastic change in our way of living on this campus. For years we have failed to have adequate space for all of the facilities that are involved in this University Center. With the number of students we now have on this campus and those expected to come as we grow, it is absolutely essential that there be a building of this type at the University. I feel that it will bring about a feeling of tremendous pride in the University itself."

Pantzer said the Center and its facilities "exist for the use of students, faculty members, our visitors, and the many people in the community who will enjoy functions here."

Leary praised the many facilities of the Center and said the building "was conceived in a belief that a student's leisure should complement his education."

The public grand opening continues through Monday evening when Ramsey Lewis and his trio perform in the Five Valleys Room of the Center. The performance is slated for 8:15 p.m. Monday.

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