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Main Hall to Main St.

Vol. 1, No. 2

Connecting Campus and Community

July 1995

Tomorrow's campus takes shape today

Montana is in the midst of an unprecedented building boom, with new construction and other projects under way on all corners of campus. And this may be just the beginning, says President George M. Dennison, who envisions a host of additional campus projects by the year 2,000.

New construction and renovation projects totaling more than \$70 million already are in the works.

with another \$140 million in construction proposed as the new century approaches.

"The period of change and disruption we have experienced during the last couple years will, in all likelihood, continue at least to the end of the decade," Dennison says.

Almost 20 separate projects are taking shape all over campus, with construction ranging from a new Honors College to UM's first parking structure.

"Somebody said recently that we haven't had this magnitude of construction going on since the 1950s," says Dennison.

Thirteen buildings were erected during that decade; 11 new buildings opened between 1953 and 1956 alone. The next wave of construction came during Robert T. Pantzer's presidency from 1966 to 1974, during which the University Center, the Mansfield Library, the Science Complex, Jesse Hall and Aber Hall were built.

This fall will mark the opening of Pantzer Hall, the first new dormitory on the UM campus since its namesake's era in Main Hall.

Washington-Grizzly Stadium will sport



The Washington-Grizzly Stadium expansion project will add 7,000 seats

an additional 7,000 seats in the end zone this fall. The Liberal Arts Building and the Lodge will finally have elevators.

By this time next year, the School of Business Administration, which outgrew its present home years ago, will move into spacious new digs on the west side of campus. The \$15.4 million William and Rosemary Gallagher School of Business Administration Building, built with \$13.1 million in state funds and \$2.3 million in private donations, will see its final level added in coming weeks.

Gutting and remodeling of the University Center will continue for another year, while crews nearby will be winding up the project to straighten Campus Drive where it passes in front of the Prescott House by August.

At almost every turn, something is going up or coming down.

"I didn't set out to do this," Dennison, who came to UM in 1990, says of the construction. "I knew that there was a need to address facilities. There always is. I certainly didn't have any impression five years ago that we would be this deeply involved in construction."

A critical need for more space and state-of-the-art technological facilities

combined with low interest rates to spark the construction boom.

Who pays for it?

Of the \$70 million in projects currently under way, about \$13.4 million is funded by the state. Another \$3.3 million came from private sources, while the rest is funded with revenue bonds that will be repaid with user fees.

This spring, the private Utah-based ALSAM Foundation gave \$2.5

million, the largest contribution in UM's history, to build an addition for the pharmacy school. The gift was contingent upon UM raising the rest of the project's \$10.4 million price tag. The state Legislature contributed another \$2 million, and UM is seeking sources to supply the remaining \$6 million.

The University also is seeking funding for the rest of the \$140 million in proposed construction projects.

The Campus of the Future

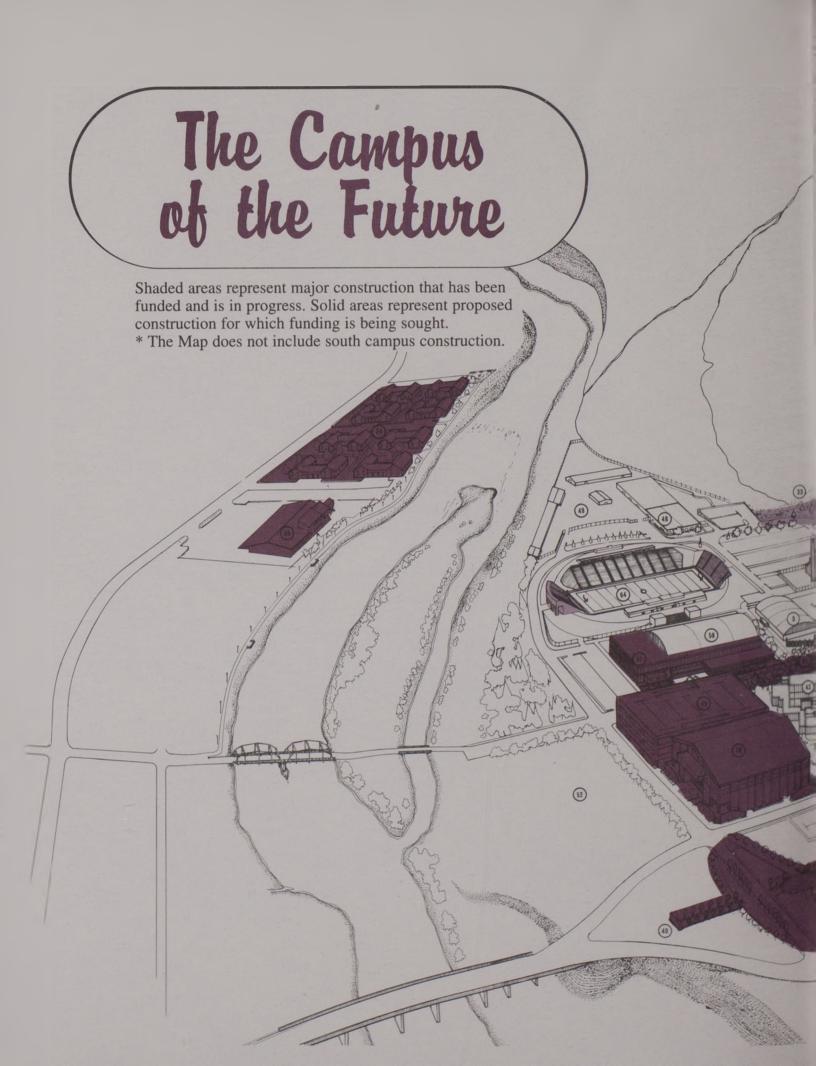
One day, a skybridge may link the Mansfield Library with a high-tech computer center to form UM's information hub.

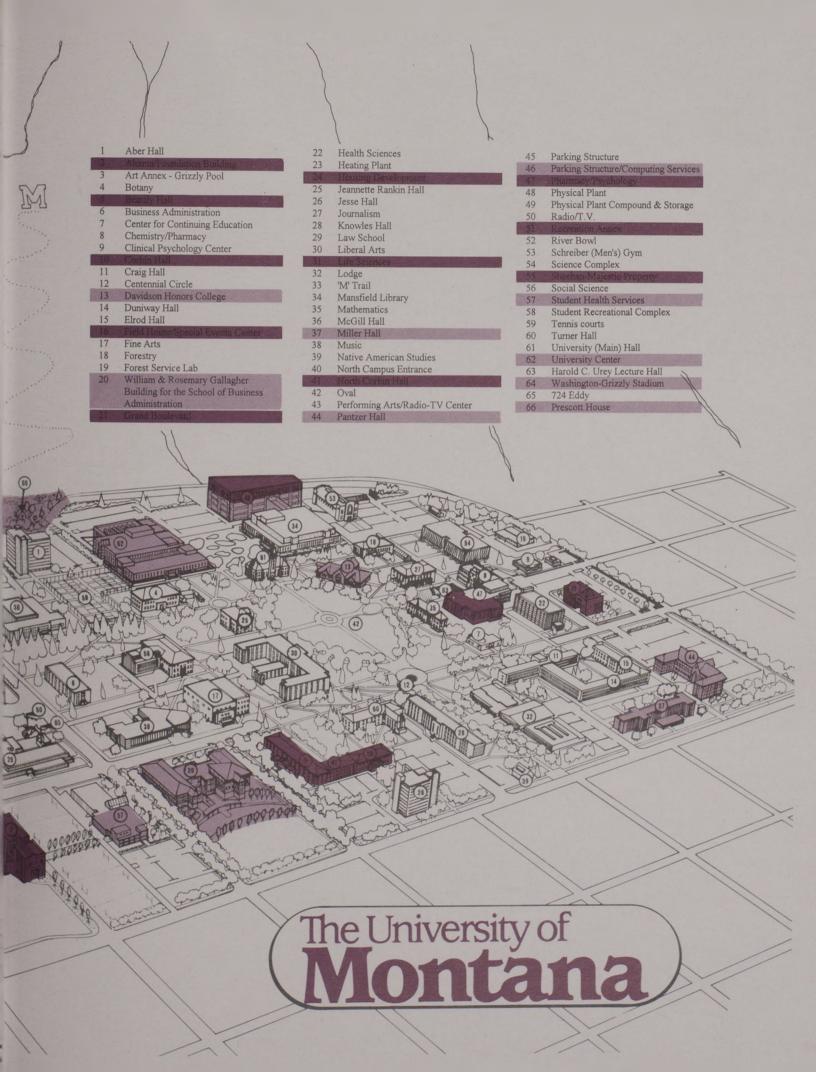
"We need to have those facilities connected because they are the facilities that give you access to information," Dennison says.

The computer center will top off a multi-level parking structure, the first two levels of which will be completed this summer.

Other future plans call for a new \$20 million multi-purpose arena and a three-story parking structure to be built in the

(Continued on back page)





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parking lot west of the field house. Patrons could park in the garage and take covered skybridges to events in the Performing Arts/Radio Television Center or the field house, which would be used as an intramural athletics and recreation center for students, faculty and staff.

To the west of the proposed new field house, Dennison hopes to construct a new home for the UM Foundation and the Alumni Association where two blocks of houses, most owned by UM, now sit. The foundation/alumni building and a tree-lined park facing the Madison Street Bridge would provide an official entrance to the campus. UM is working with city officials on proposals to change the flow of traffic on Arthur Avenue to make that development possible.

After the UM Foundation and Alumni Association move their offices, Brantly Hall would be remodeled and restored to its original use as a residence hall, probably for graduate students.

A Life Sciences Building is high on the list of construction priorities and is planned for the parking lot next to Pantzer Hall.

Most of the proposed construction will probably be paid for with revenue bonds, officials say.

Time frame

Although Dennison cannot predict a precise completion date for proposed future construction, he says, "This is not something that we have to wait 30 years for."

He believes that five to 10 years is a realistic time frame.

"You ought not to plan things any farther out than that," Dennison says. "You can outline plans that take 15 to 20 years to do, but what you are doing is imposing on the next group that comes along. The plans that I make ought to be realizable within the time frame that I am going to be around.

"We keep working on this as opportunities present themselves. A year ago, nobody would have said that we were going to build the addition to the pharmacy building."

Main Hall to Main Street is published monthly by University Communications at The University of Montana-Missoula. Send questions, comments or suggestions to Rita Munzenrider, editor, 317 Brantly Hall, Missoula, 59812, or call 243-4824.

New dorm, family complex will ease UM housing crunch



Pantzer Hall will house 201 students when it opens this fall

Student housing has always been a priority for UM President George M. Dennison.

During his first two years at UM, Dennison worked with city and county officials trying to present a palatable proposal for private developers to build on University-owned land near campus. None would bite, however, and Dennison decided it was time for the University to tackle its own construction projects financed with revenue bonds.

Pantzer Hall, the first of those projects to be completed, will debut this fall with a new concept in dormitory living at UM. The \$8 million, four-story dorm that graces the south end of campus off Beckwith Avenue will house 201 students in individual suites consisting of four bedrooms, a living room and two bathrooms.

Nearby Miller Hall will undergo major changes in the next year. The dorm, built in 1965, closed in May for a 14-month, \$5.1 million interior and exterior overhaul. Students returning to campus for the 1996-97 academic year will find the dorm looking much like neighboring Pantzer Hall, with suites and a sloped roof.

A half-mile away on UM's South Campus, crews are building a 120-unit family housing complex by the existing family housing complex and the University golf course. The \$7.6 million project is scheduled for completion in August 1996.

Despite the new hall and family complex, student housing will continue to be near the top of Dennison's construction wish list through the end of the decade. "Housing is an important need here and in the community," he says.

Dennison hopes finally to entice a private developer to build housing for UM students and recover the investment through rent. As part of the deal, the University will offer a 20-year lease on the property—either a parcel across the Clark Fork River between Sheehan Majestic and the Missoula Athletic Club on East Broadway, or one on Higgins Avenue south of Dornblaser Field According to Dennison's terms, students would have first crack at the rentals, but the community also would have access to any units not filled by students.

Although it has never been done in Missoula, Dennison says that colleges and universities around the country have made similar agreements with developers

"The first effort of all of this is that we try to work with the private sector and the community. I want to emphasize that the community has been very supportive," Dennison says.

Summer treks up the 'M' trail don't have to come to an end just because construction on Campus Drive has begun.

Getting to the popular trail requires a slight adjustment for hikers while the trail head off Campus Drive is closed through mid-August. Hikers can reach the trail via a footpath leading behind the Physical Plant from the Kim Williams Trail

The project, which will eliminate the road's sharp S-curve in front of the Prescott House, restricts campus traffic and parking for the summer.