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Grand opening of \$4.3 million U Center is February 8

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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Grand opening of \$4.3 million U Center is February 8" (1968). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 4230.
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GRAND OPENING
OF \$4.3 MILLION
U CENTER IS FEB. 8

MISSOULA, Mont.---

Grand opening of the new \$4.3 million University Center at the University of Montana will be Feb. 8.

Program arrangements for formal public opening of the student facility are being planned. Public ceremonies will include guided tours, music, an art display and sale, and a luncheon and dinner for a number of political leaders and other prominent Montanans.

Construction of the facility will be financed with student fees. UM President Robert T. Pantzer has said the Center is the largest single construction project ever attempted in Montana, with the exception of state highway construction.

The huge structure includes a Sidewalk Cafe, mall, Copper Commons Cafe, ballroom, bookstore, bowling alley and other recreational areas, Information Center and Lounge, and a number of offices.

Concerning banquet accommodations at the Center, Ray Chapman, student union director, said, "In the Five Valleys Ballroom we can serve 1,500 people at one time. The Gold Oak Room is designed to serve 1,200 students for each meal, and smaller groups--from six to 350 people--can be served in the Montana Rooms."

J.A. Parker, UM physical plant director, said construction of the Center will be completed in about a week. Only minor touching up remains. Tables, chairs and other furnishings are being installed. Parker said observation and inspection for minor adjustments of the Center's facilities will continue for about a year.

George L. Mitchell, UM administrative vice president, is in charge of grand opening arrangements. He heads a committee planning the events.

Members of Spurs and Bear Paws, sophomore coed and male service groups on the Missoula campus, will conduct tours of the Center during the grand opening.

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