

# The VALLEY LIBRARY

- IMAGES OF CONSTRUCTION -

By Eriks Zarins

October 1999



# The VALLEY LIBRARY

- IMAGES OF CONSTRUCTION -

By Eriks Zarins

October 1999

**A** CORNERSTONE OF ANY UNIVERSITY IS ITS LIBRARY. CONSEQUENTLY, the construction or renovation of a library is thus a major event on any college campus. In the spring of 1996, Oregon State University began such a significant transformation. Three years and \$47 million later, the old Kerr Library has become the larger and considerably improved Valley Library.

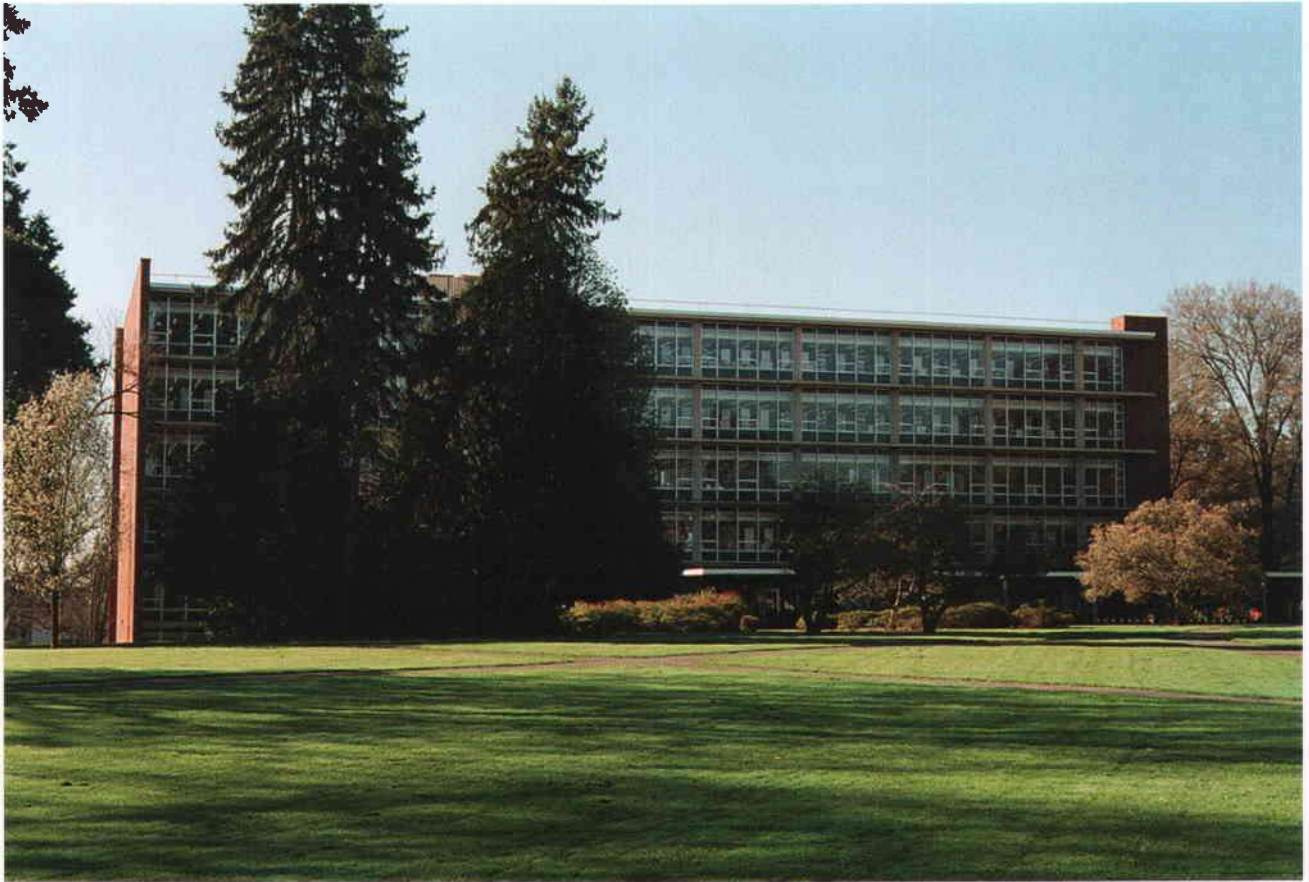
During most of this period, I was a full-time OSU student and part-time photographer. For me, documenting the library project was not only a good way to test and hone my photographic skills, but also a way to have some fun. My approach was to keep things simple, so I never requested access to the actual construction site, and I primarily focused on the building's exterior.

With the guidance of Jim Folts, art professor and department chair, I have combined my best images in this booklet. What this document provides is a unique way of seeing an important change to Oregon State University - the construction of The Valley Library.

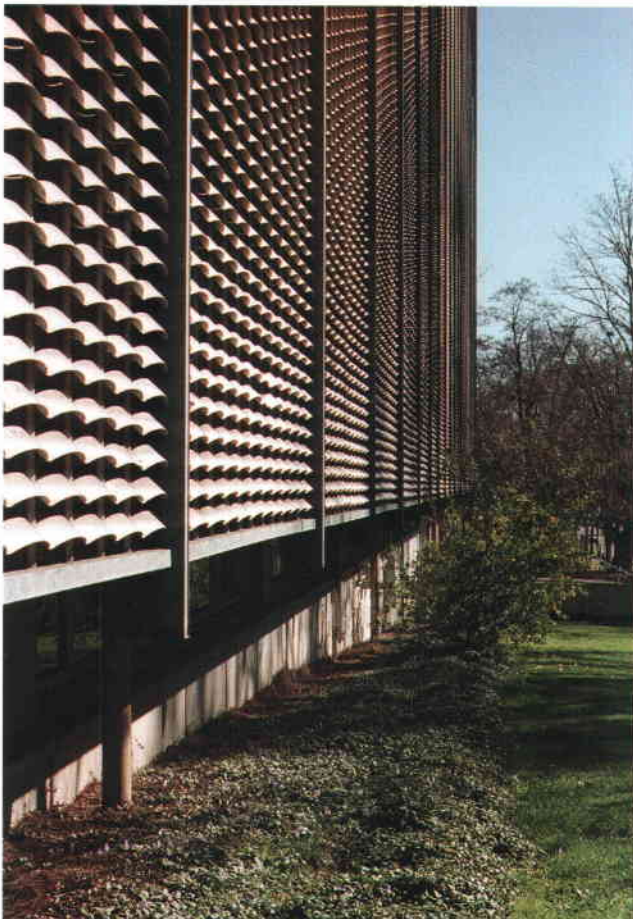
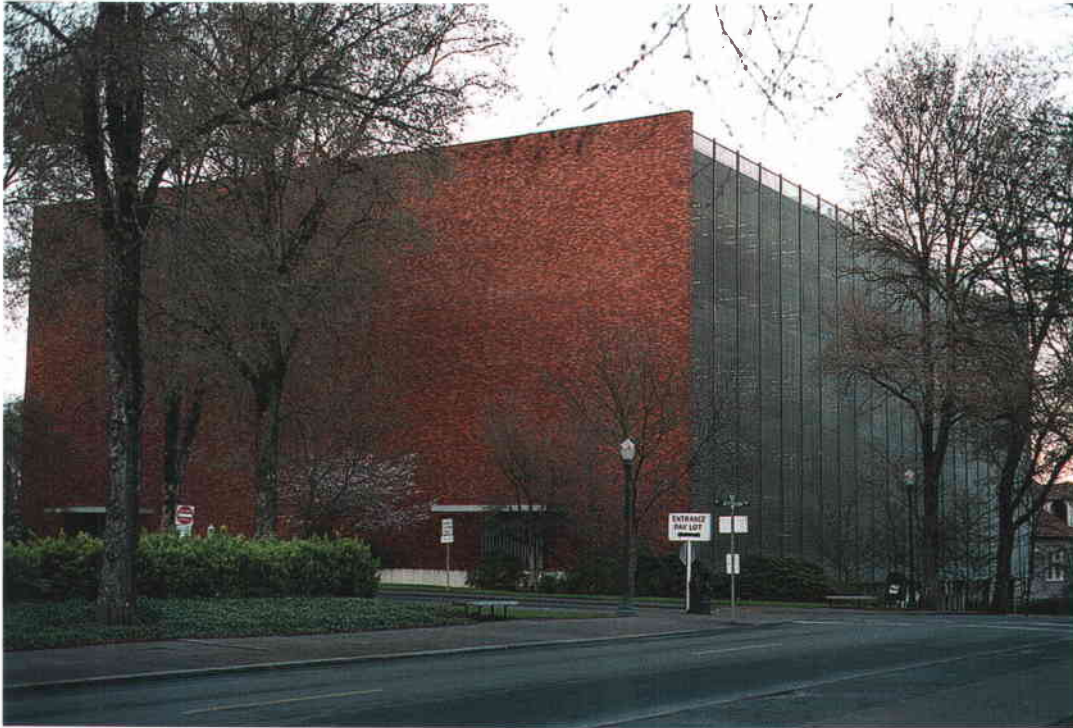


The model by SRG Partnership, the building's architects, provided a preview of what the completed Valley Library would look like.

# WHAT ONCE WAS - KERR LIBRARY



Kerr Library, as seen in the spring of 1996.



Two views of Kerr Library from the southwest. Above, the entire very uniform western side and the windowed south face are visible. A close-up view of the “cheese grater” sun shields, doing what they were designed to do, appears at left.



**The quad to the north of Kerr would be the primary area of new construction for The Valley Library.**



Outside the main entrance, a small plaza provided a place for people to read or, as in this case, to socialize.

**A rail outside  
Kerr Library's  
front doors  
provides an  
anchoring  
point for two  
bicycles.**



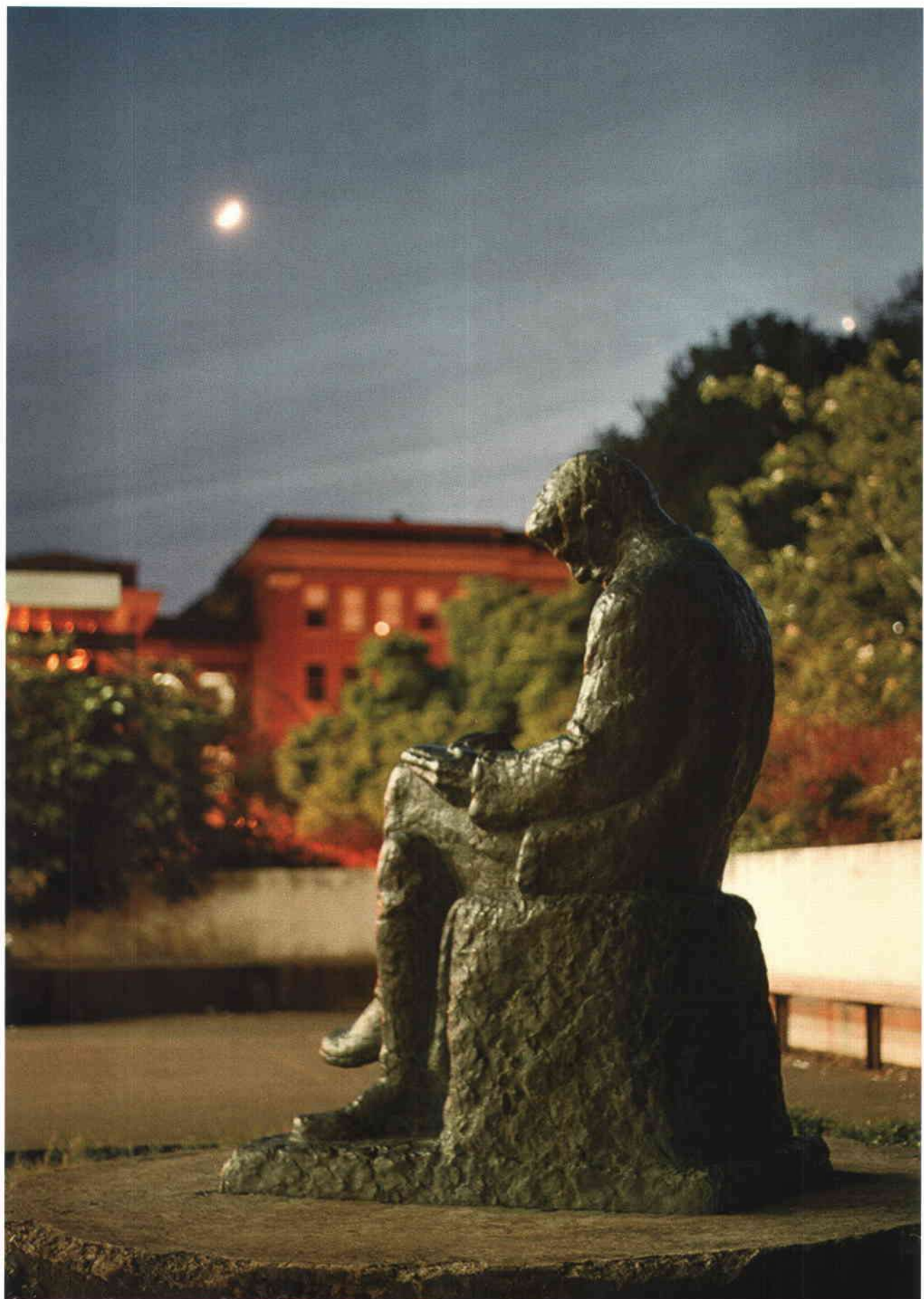


**As students approach the library's secondary entrance off Jefferson Way, water splashes in a fountain created by Wayne P. Taysom.**



**Most functional on rainy days, the covered walkway leading to Kerr's main doors is seen here on a warm spring evening.**

**A sculpture by Ivan Mestrovic of Martin Kukucin, Slovak author and humanitarian, sits on the north side of Kerr Library. If only symbolically, the moon (left corner) provides Kukucin some light by which to write.**



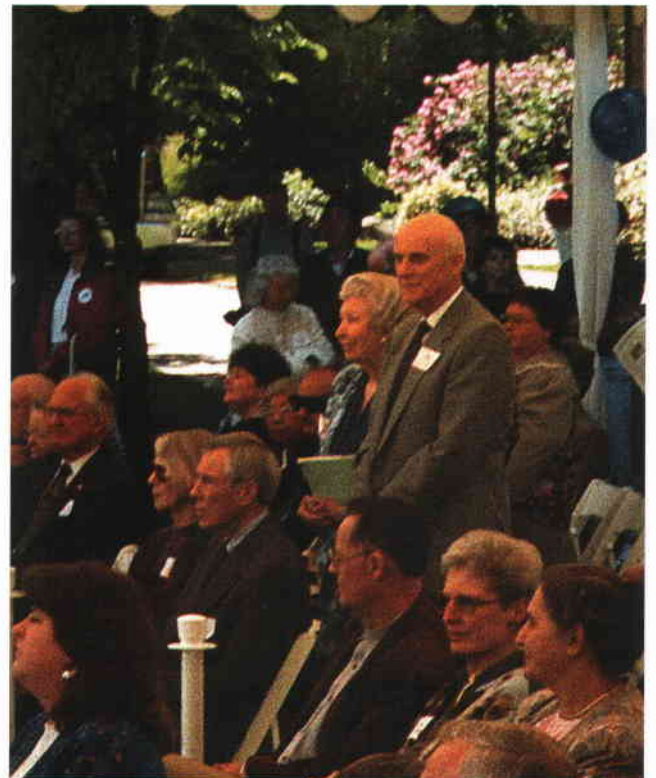
# GROUND BREAKING



**Construction of The Valley Library ceremoniously began on a beautiful day in May of 1996.**

**Opposite, top: Roosevelt Credit is the focus of at least two other cameras as he conducts the OSU Pep Band.**

**Opposite, bottom: Former Oregon State University President John Byrne addresses those gathered (left); while another former OSU President, Roy Young, and his wife Marilyn, stand to be recognized (right).**





**Sara Hart Kimball and Bill Kimball look on as a worker diligently tries to dig up some ground.**

**The arm of a trackhoe engulfs John Evey, the university's director of development, and Valley Library benefactor Gladys Valley.**



## DIGGING, WELDING, FRAMING...



A large hole is dug on the north edge of the old building to make way for the new addition.



Bracing that once supported the sun shields on the southern face is carefully removed.

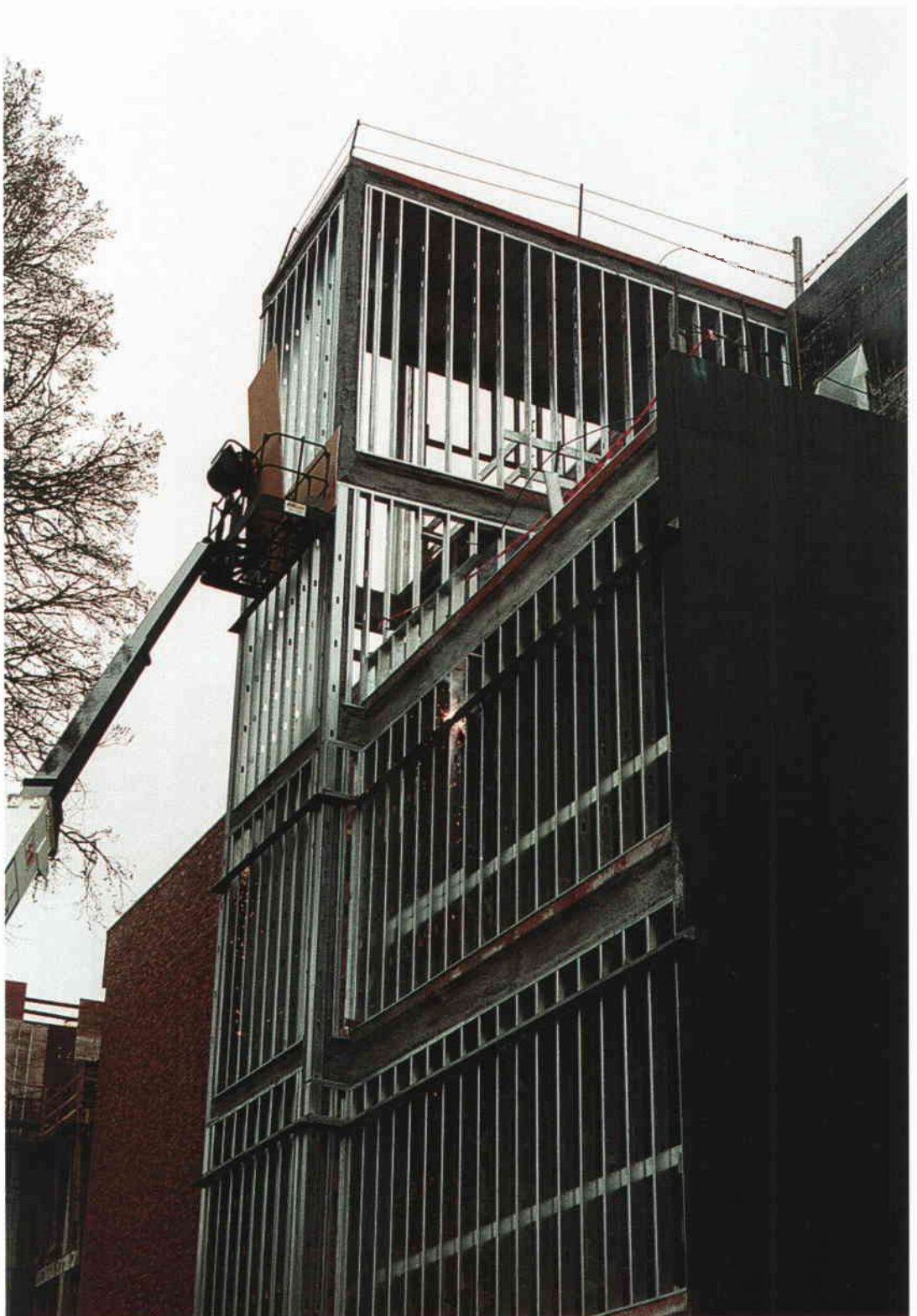


A new concrete and steel shearwall begins to take shape (center, right) as workers place a beam at the structure's new southwest corner.



One after another, concrete trucks arrive to have their loads pumped to the fifth floor for pouring.

**At this point of construction, this westside addition looks like the future home of untamed beasts, not library employees.**





To help hold the building's new exterior facade in place, connectors are added by this welder.



Two men tie rebar together for one of the rotunda's tall interior column cages.

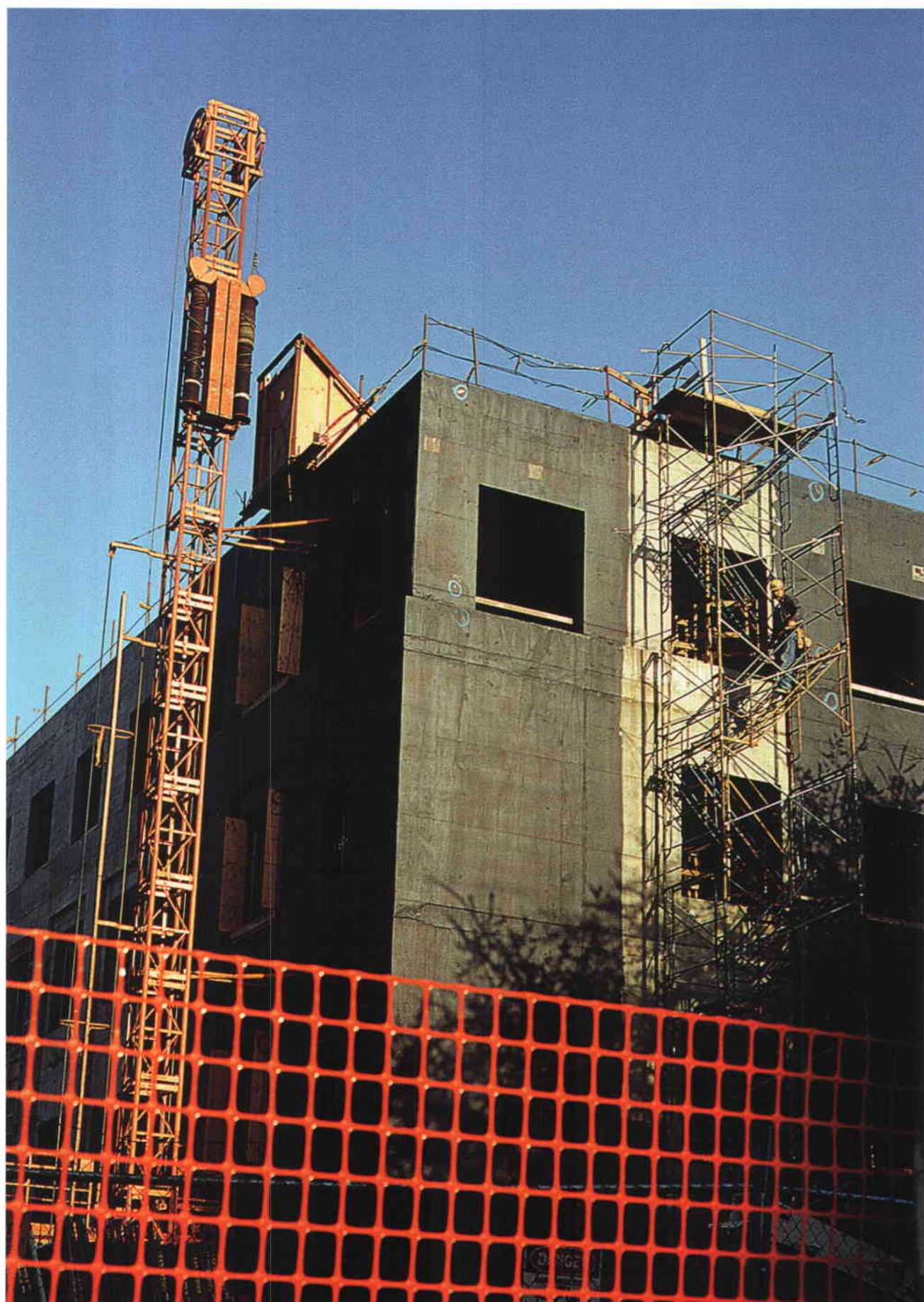


**Workers walk across rebar that will eventually form the backbone for a concrete floor slab.**



**Proper completion of the new library, which is visible in the glass on the supply truck, would reflect well on its builders - Hoffman Construction.**

**School colors ever so briefly appeared on The Valley Library project. The orange of the manlift tower and plastic fencing, and the black of the concrete sealant came together on the northwest corner of the structure.**



## CONTRASTS AND GRAVITY



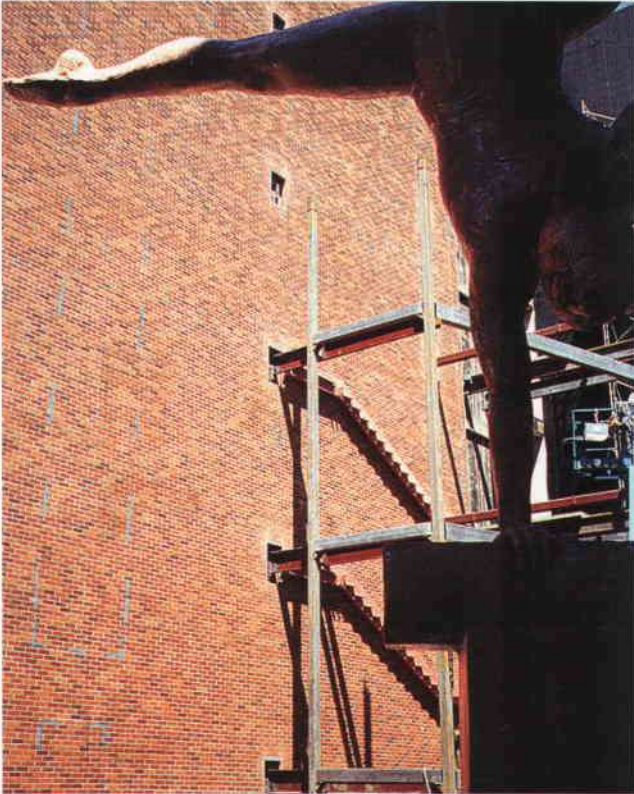
Like two parallel universes, interior work occurs on one side of a second floor window while a reflection of a student studying can be seen in the glass.



With only a wood barricade and a chainlink fence in its way, a trackhoe seems to have its eyes on a *Pyrus calleryana* (flowering pear) tree in the area north of the library.

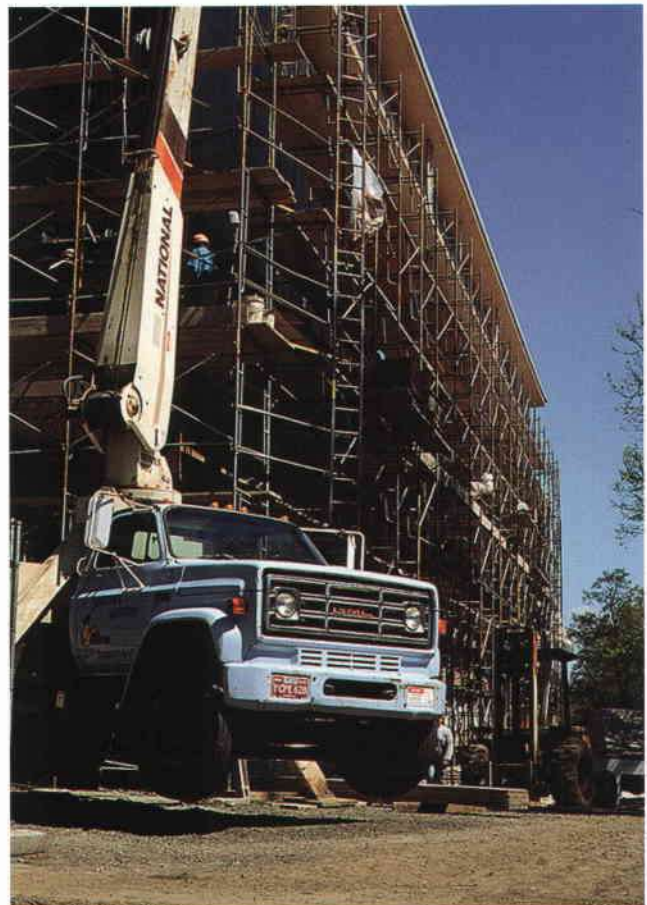


The bright blooms of a rhododendron bush are in stark contrast to the black-washed pillars of the new rotunda.



**In the foreground, former Oregon State gymnast Joy Selig is immortalized in bronze doing a handstand on the balance beam, while beams of a different kind begin to form the structure for a new stairwell.**

**Four debris chutes extend past the already finished lower portion of the southern exterior.**



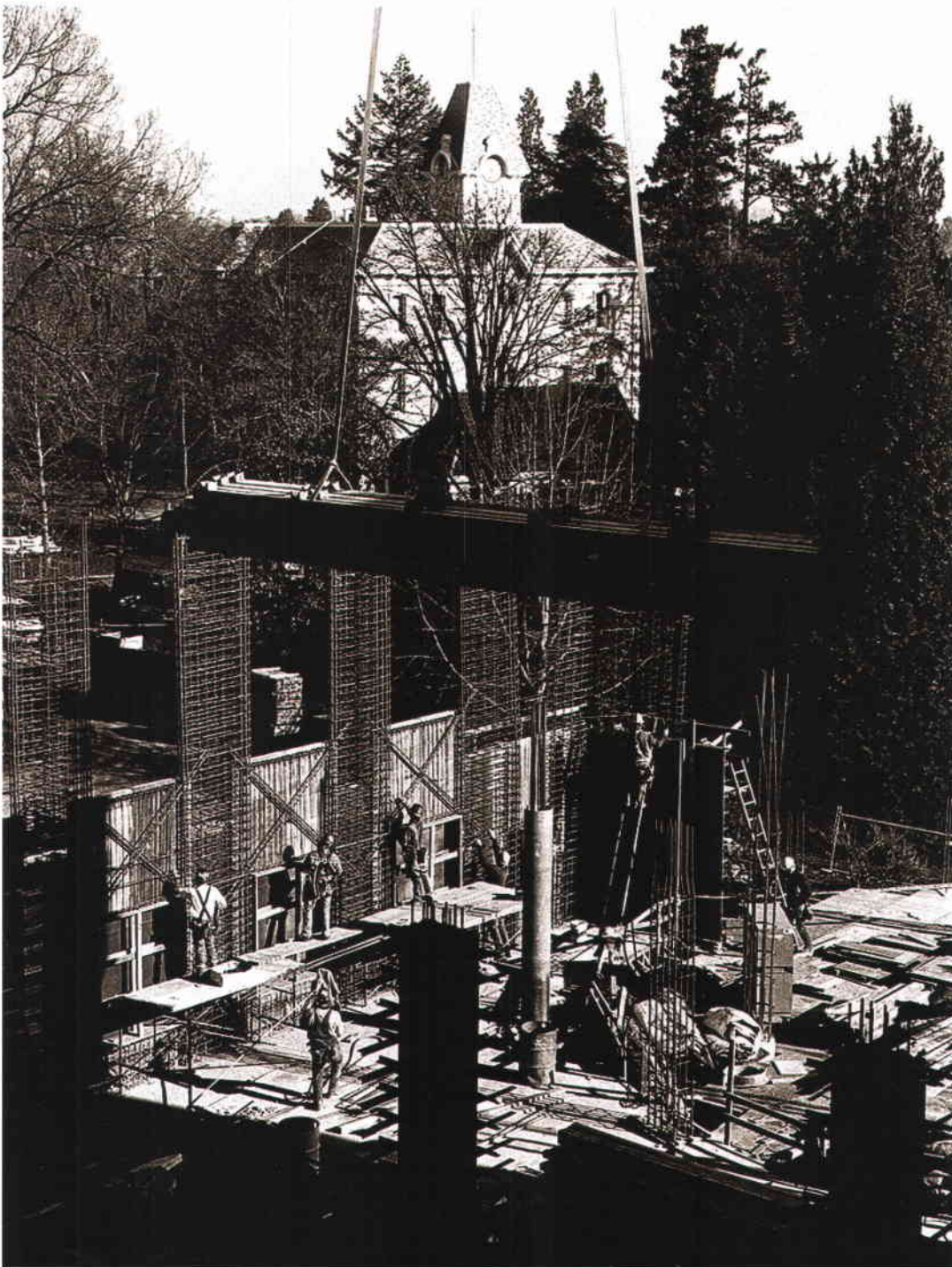
**At first glance, this boom-truck appears to be floating above the ground. Actually, large, extended legs support the vehicle as its crane lifts materials to workers on the scaffolding above.**



## BLACK & NIGHT



From his precarious position, a worker prepares the structure onto which the rotunda's fifth floor will be poured.



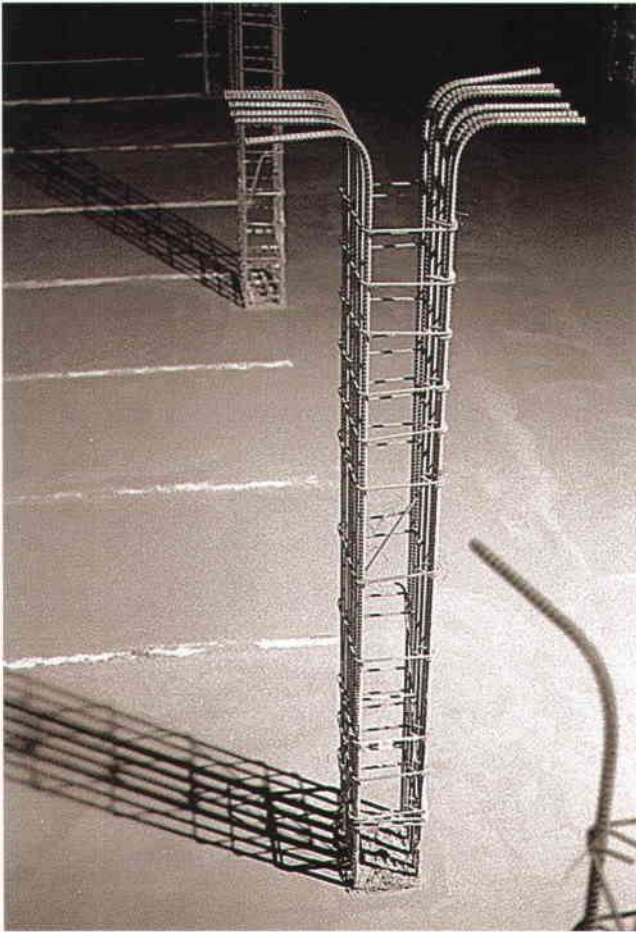
As a crane moves material overhead, numerous men labor on the north-side shearwall. Historic Benton Hall is in the background.



As a construction worker prepares to leave for his lunch break, his shadow, and those of the shear-wall rebar cages, are visible from the inside of the white-washed fourth floor windows.



Some work could not be put off. Here, a lone figure works late into the night troweling the concrete of a recently poured floor slab.

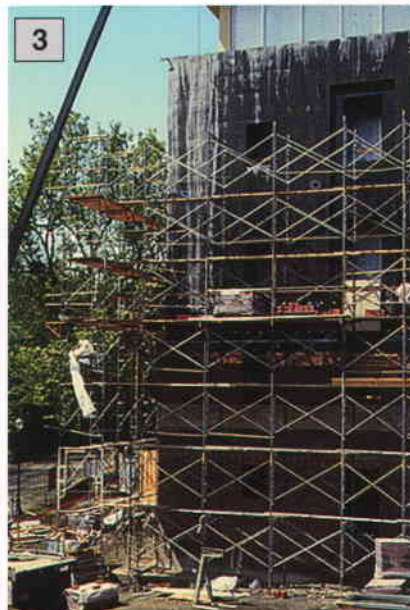


**A column cage as it appears before (left) and after forms for concrete were placed and filled.**

**On a mild February night, a mixer delivers its cargo of concrete. The view is from Strand Agriculture building, part of which appears along the right edge.**

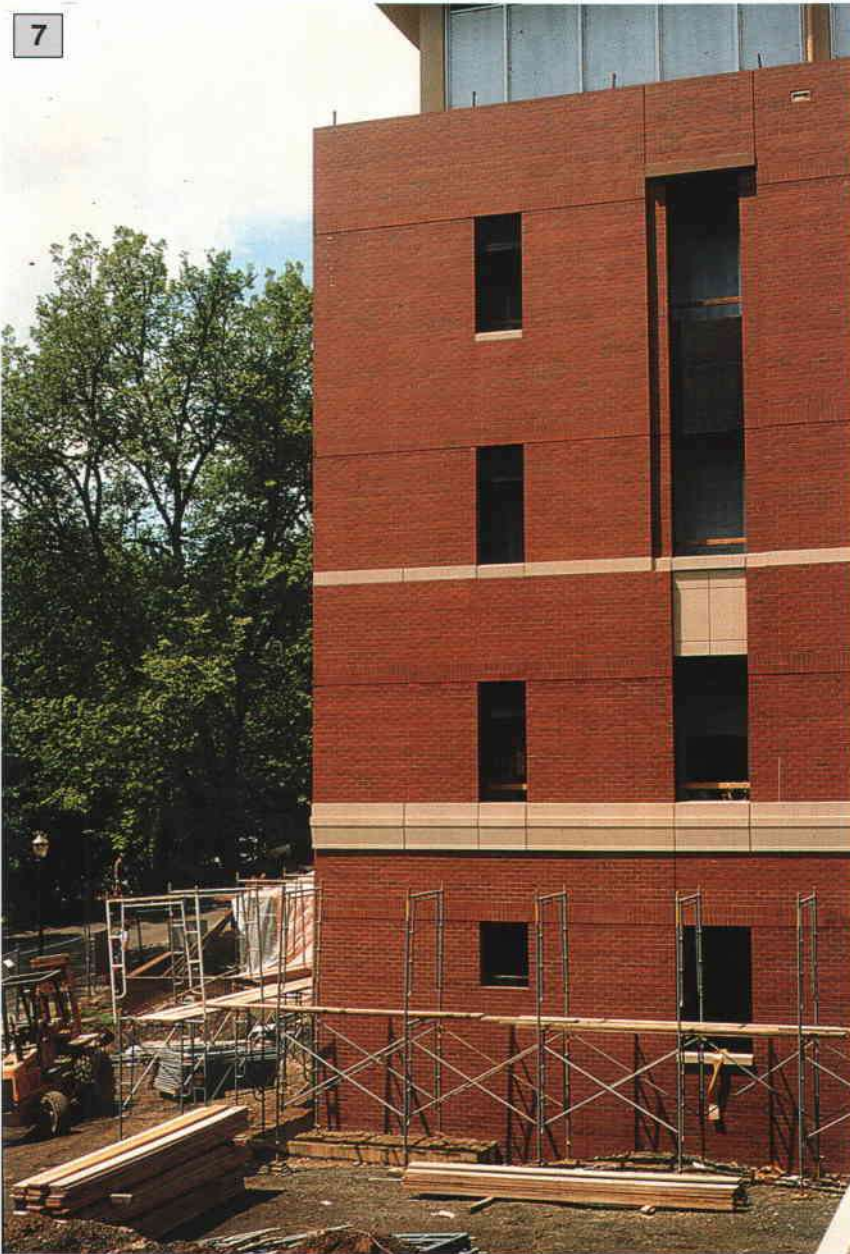


# SEEING THE CHANGES



The progress of the bricklayers on the southeast corner of the building is documented in the photos on this and the opposite page. Image #1 was captured on April 17, 1997 (a Tuesday), at around noon. Each subsequent image was taken almost exactly one week after the one preceding it.

7



On May 29th, most of the scaffolding had come down, making the work of the prior six weeks more apparent.



Those working at the university's administrative top level (literally) had a great view of the library's transformation. From the now Kerr Administration building's sixth floor, the first photo is of the then (1996) Kerr Library. Images 2 through 6 show how the south and east exteriors of the structure changed during the project. On the next page...

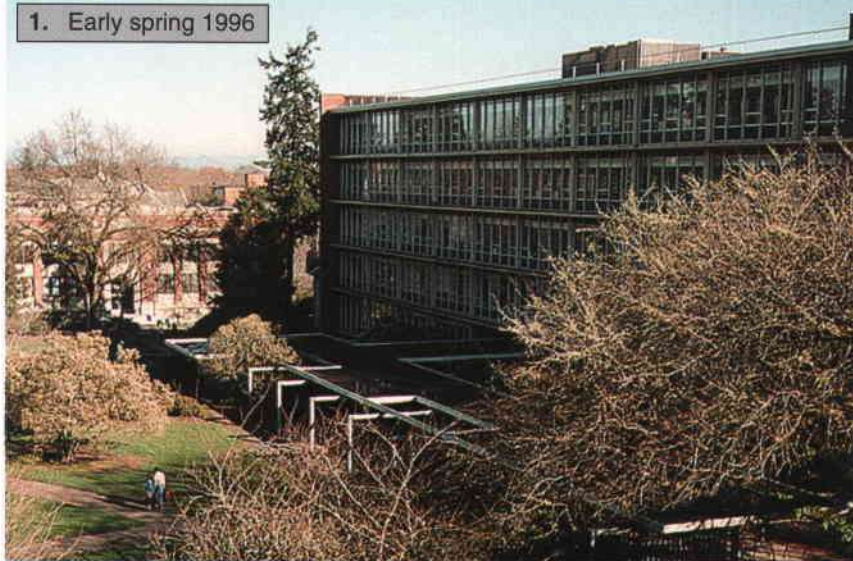


...the finished product, as it looked at the start of summer, 1999.

# TURNING THE PAGE

On this and the next two pages are pictures of the new north addition taking shape. The images may be viewed by looking down each page to see the progress, or by flipping between pages to see changes.

1. Early spring 1996



2. Summer 1996



3. Fall 1996



4. Winter 1996-97



5. Winter 1996-97



6. Early spring 1997



7. Early summer 1997



8. Early spring 1999





**The same northern portion of the library project is also captured from a lower angle on this and the next two pages. Again, by moving between the pages, one can see how dramatic the change is to this part of the Oregon State campus.**



C. Early spring 1999



## COMPRESSING TIME IN PLACE



With the aid of a computer graphics program, two images taken from the same location have been combined into one. Ground breaking ceremonies seem to be occurring simultaneously with work on the library's new north addition.

Three photographs of the rotunda in various states of completion have been pieced together. The front of the old Kerr Library can still be seen on the left, while on the right, the finished Valley Library is visible.



## DEDICATION DAY



**Former Oregon State University President Paul Risser talks about The Valley Library project at a ceremony dedicating the new building. To his left, an interpreter converts his words to sign for the hearing impaired attending the May 28, 1999 event.**



**Storyteller and poet Ed Edmo, at left, entertains the dedication day crowd with a tale about a man named "Snake." Below, audience members react with smiles to Edmo's amusing story.**

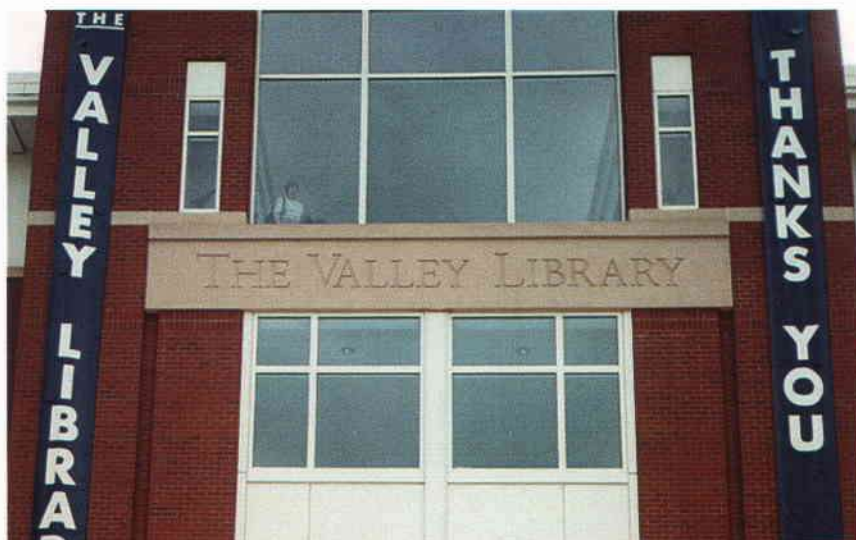




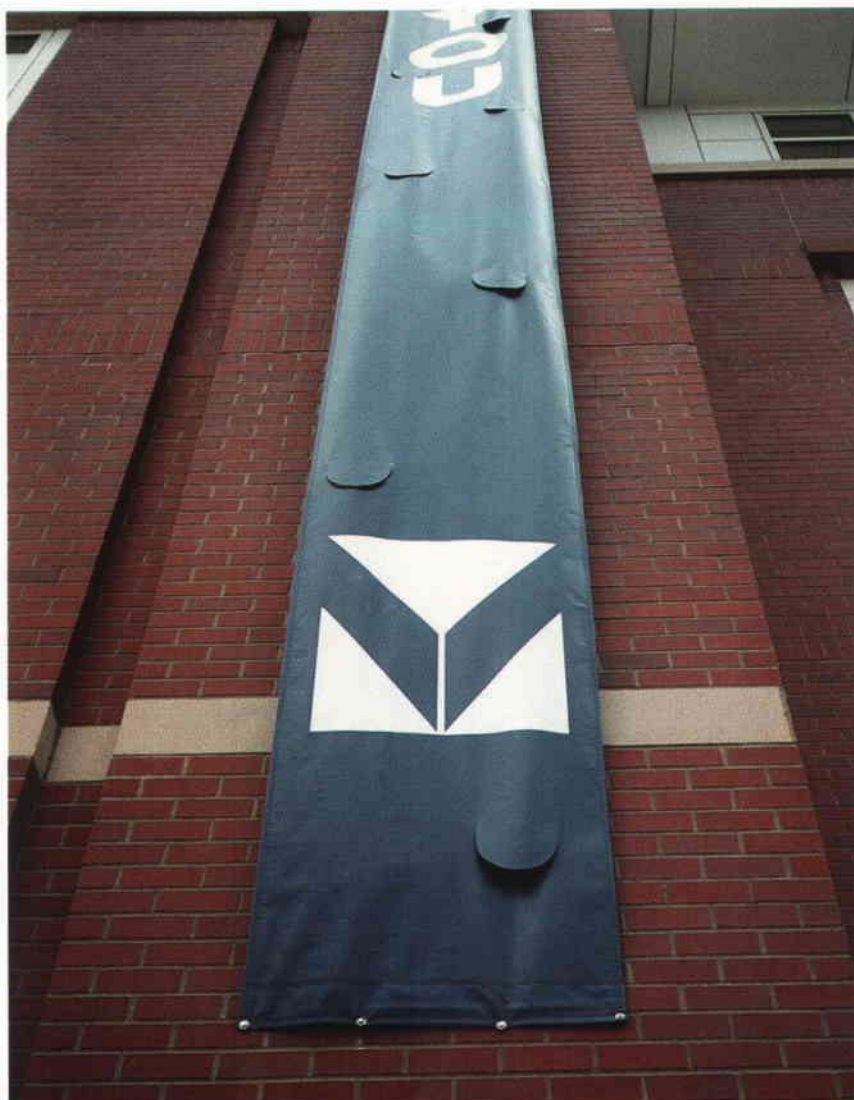
**After an appearance at the project's ground breaking, OSU graduate Roosevelt Credit returned for the library's dedication with a song he wrote for the occasion. With the accompaniment of a small band and the Inner Strength Gospel Choir, Credit performed "Within These Walls."**

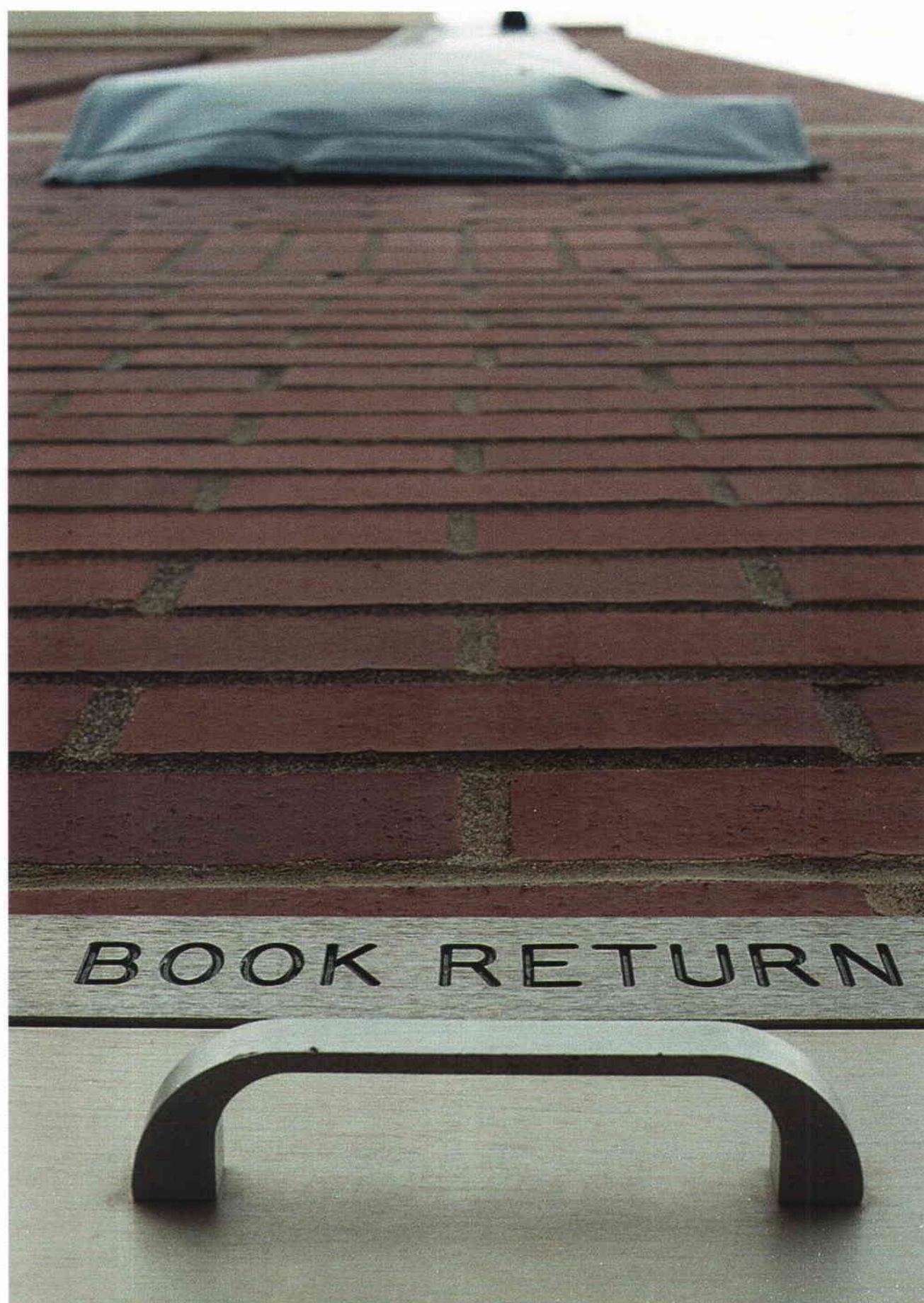


**Not everyone's attention was maintained by the numerous speeches about a new building for books.**



To all those who supported the construction project, library officials expressed their appreciation with two large banners (above). However, they also may be thanking patrons for bringing back their books. The Valley logo on the “Thanks You” banner (right) appears like an arrow directing people to the book return door below (opposite page).

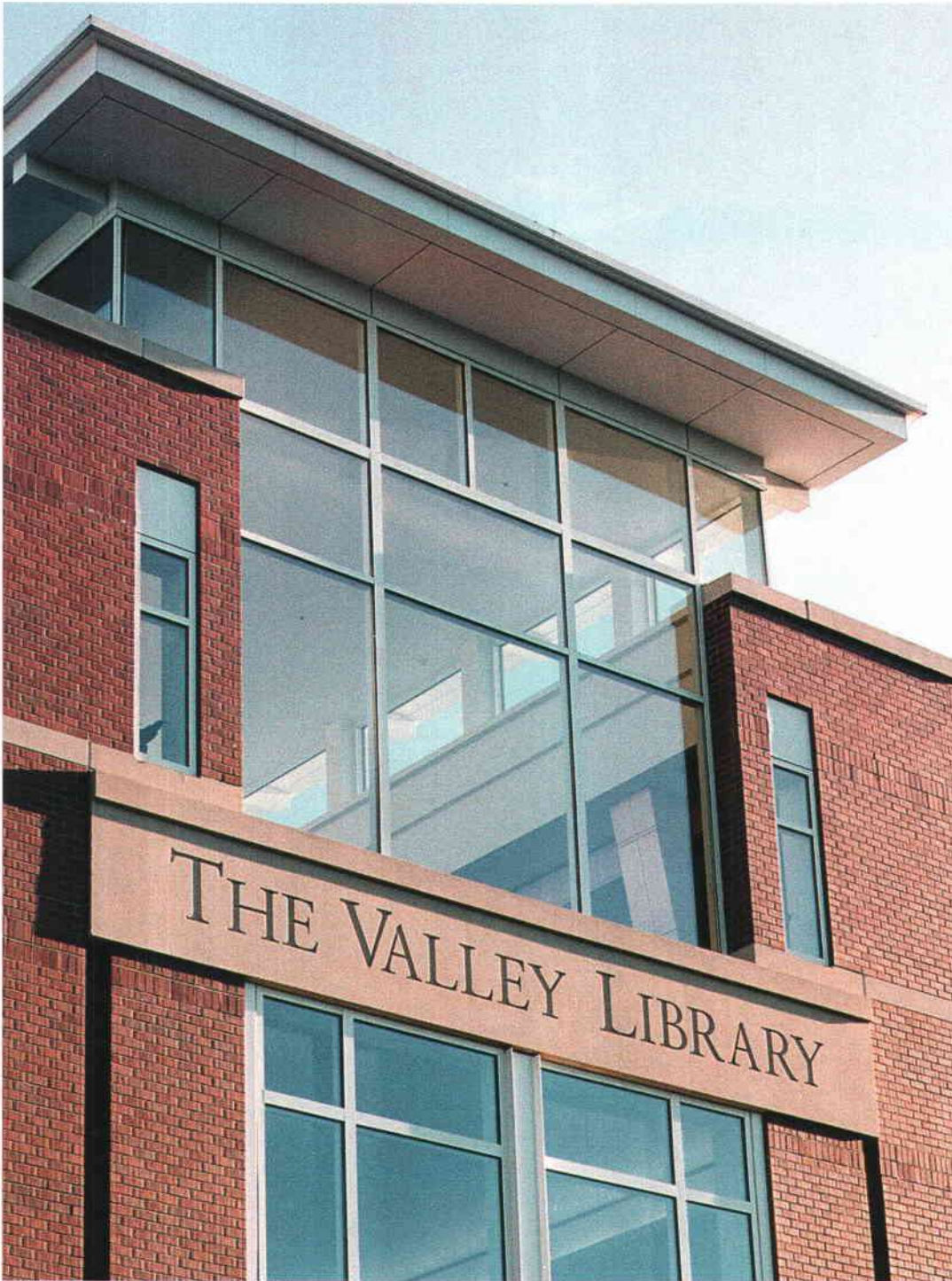




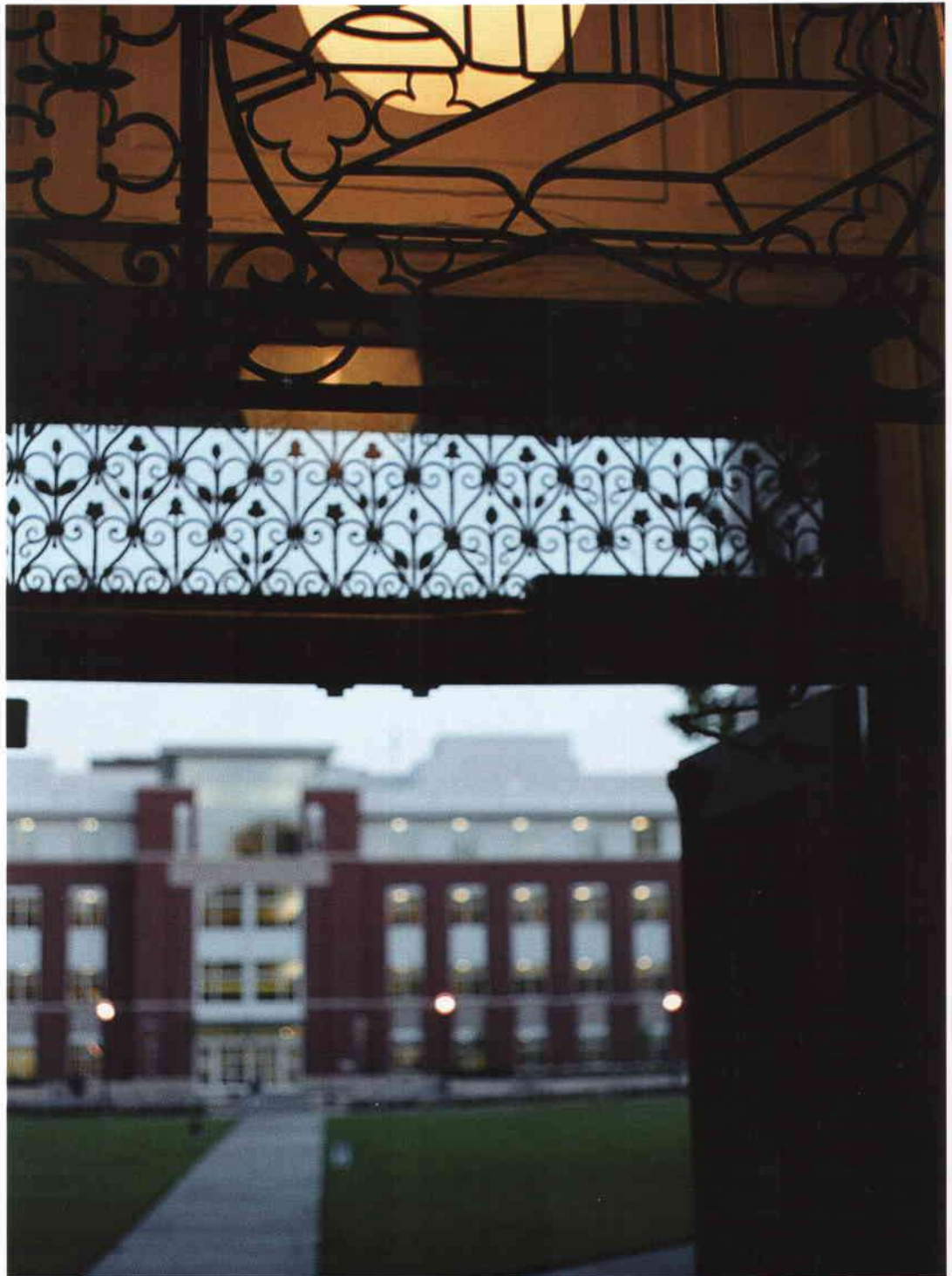
## A NEW RESOURCE



The Valley Library, as seen in the spring of 1999.



Unlike its predecessor, the new library's main entrance is architecturally pronounced. A part of the design is a large sign identifying the building.



**Open doors. Open books. Through the open front doors of Kidder Hall, the new Valley Library can be seen. Kidder's status as the university's first building, solely for the library, is hinted at in the iron work above the doorway.**



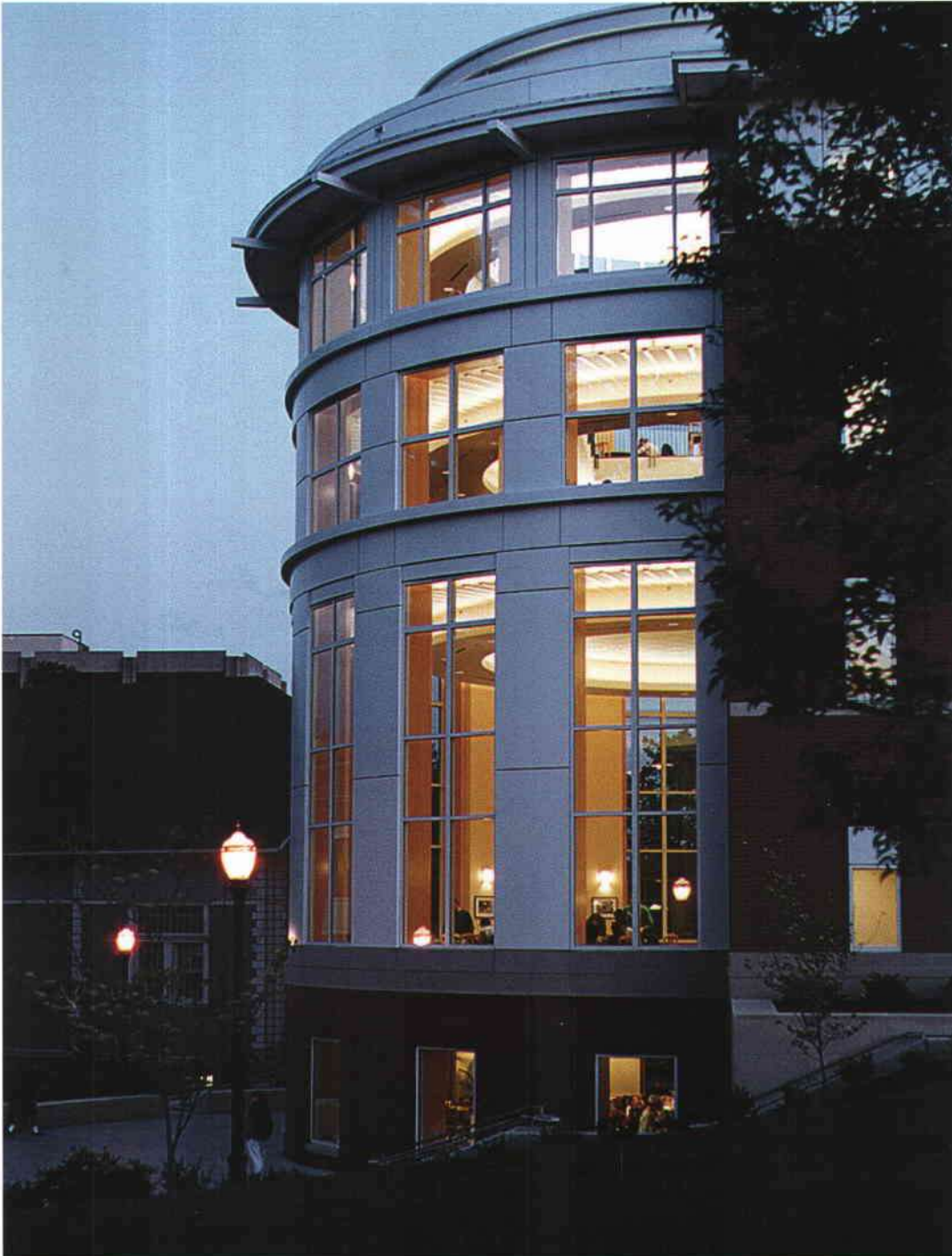
The statue of Martin Kukucin would find a new home on the library's west side - just out of the reach of a new drinking fountain.

Having survived its showdown with the trackhoe (page 23), this Pyrus tree is unlikely to again cross paths with heavy machinery any time soon.





**The Taysom fountain would remain on the building's south side, while the secondary entrance would not. It moved to the east side of the new structure.**



Whether to review for an exam or to put the last touches on a group project, students found the new rotunda a good place to work on this finals week evening. Even without the use of superhero-like x-ray vision, we can see through a fourth floor window a person studying on the fifth floor - a mezzanine.



Nightfall makes the balanced uniformity of the library's north side windows very apparent.



The sun and its “dog” (parhelic circle) shine down on the library and a neighboring tree.



Books, periodicals, and computer screens within The Valley Library (plus numerous tiny billboards planted in front of it) await the eyes of OSU students in the quiet early-morning hours.



Two students hurry across Kelley Courtyard Plaza, which lies outside the library's front doors. Those in much less of a hurry can stop to read the many quotes engraved in the granite. One quote, by OSU alum and Nobel Prize winner Linus Pauling, is located below the lamp and is the focus of the image on the next page. Pauling stated that, "If I couldn't find a place for something, then I would change my picture of the world until I understood where it fit."



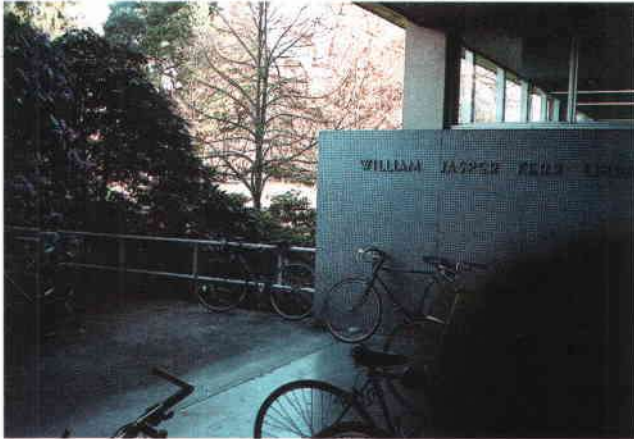






Thanks to Kim Thompson and Marcia Griffin of The Valley Library, and to Fred Westerlund of Hoffman Construction, for their assistance.

## BLOOPERS, BLUNDERS, AND OTHER BAD PHOTOGRAPHY



To better ensure against copyright infringement, I like to include pictures with fingerprint identification. All right, that's not true. I just messed up.



A blunder from the darkroom. Part of a negative goes undeveloped by chemicals.



Accurate weather information is important when trying to squeeze in some shooting into a busy schedule. Unfortunately, on this day, unexpected fog obscures the subject.



Admittedly, on a long project like this one, film costs can stack up. However, reshooting part of an already exposed roll is not an effective cost cutting measure.



When shooting one of these long-exposure shots, you need to keep the camera perfectly still. Here, I had things going right, then...Doh!



**OSU Libraries**  
121 The Valley Library  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331-4501  
Phone 541-737-3411