



Life at Memorial Union, as reflected in the glass surrounding workers in a large opening in the lobby floor in this photo from April, goes on during the \$8.4 million renovation of the building. After the renovation is complete, this opening between the main floor and the lower level near the food court, will provide a visual connection between the two floors.

Photo by Kurt Beyers

When school's out, construction goes to a higher gear

Memorial Union will be open through the summer, operating on normal summer hours, said Union Director Bill Smriga, "though it will be a beehive of construction activity, more than up to now."

"We will be making an intensive effort to take advantage of the lull," he said.

"The main goal is to finish the lower level area so that we can open up Mondo Deli, which will be the main deli area, downstairs in the newly named Cody Commons Area," said Smriga.

"We also hope to have ready for occupancy by the start of classes in August '06 the Center for Student Involvement, main student organization office area, also downstairs, adjacent to Cody Commons."

That is basically the entire downstairs area, with the exception of the Student Health Center, which remain in Wiest Hall through at least December 2006.

Other major projects that will be getting more intense attention beginning May 15:

- Demolition of the food court and seating area on the main floor, which is expected to be completed and opened by the start of the spring '07 semester.

- New windows and doors in the entire exterior.

- New roof.

- Installation of mechanical systems.

- Completion of new elevator.

The union will also be open for business during the break between May 15 and the summer term. For instance, Project Graduation for both Hays High School and Thomas More Prep-Marian High School will be held as planned and the fourth in this year's registration events will be held as scheduled June 9.

"Throughout the summer," said Smriga, "the union admin office, Commerce Bank and University Bookstore will remain open during normal summer hours."