

Special to faculty forum

September 14, 1994

SPECIAL TO FACULTY FORUM

The ever-changing face of the UCSD campus has a number of surprises for returning faculty and students this fall, with one major project completed during the summer, a long-awaited building nearing completion and others underway.

The bad news is that only a trickle of construction projects remain in the planning pipeline, due to the defeat by voters of the Proposition 13 bond measure on the state ballot this spring.

The final link in the internal campus loop road--the Reville campus portion--was forged this summer, well ahead of the scheduled fall completion. This last link starts at La Jolla Shores Drive and North Torrey Pines Road and ends at a new four-way intersection at Osler Lane and Gilman Drive. The completed internal campus loop road now allows vehicle access to any part of the central campus area without using surrounding public streets.

Meanwhile, construction of the mammoth Recreation/Intermural and Athletic Center (RIMAC) on the north end of campus was completed in late summer and is now being furnished. Although the building looks like it might be the largest on campus, its 180,640 gross square feet is peewee compared to the 380,000 in the University Library (largest building on campus) or the 343,000 gross square feet in the Basic Science Building.

While RIMAC employees are being trained and interior work is completed this fall, planning is underway for a week to 10 days of grand opening events in mid-January, after the winter quarter ends. Lynne Peterson is chairing a committee of students and staff planning events.

Construction of the \$33.5 million structure started in January, 1993. The facility includes a sports arena that will house five basketball courts by day and accommodate concert audiences of up to 5,000 by night, an auxiliary gymnasium, eight racquetball courts, two squash courts and support space. Parking will be in existing north campus lots.

Another major project nearing completion is the School of Medicine's Molecular Biology Research Facility Unit III. Construction of the \$30 million structure began in May of 1994 and completion is expected this December.

Two other buildings at or near construction mid-point are the Social Sciences Building on the North Campus and Classroom Building One on the central campus. The four-story \$15 million Social Sciences Building includes seminar, conference and lab space for academic departments; the three-story classroom building will include a 300-seat auditorium, two 200-seat rooms, six classrooms seating 150 and 14 rooms seating 80 or fewer, all for general assignment use.

Meanwhile, two of the few major projects in the planning stage are the Library Walk, a mall that will change the appearance of the central campus, and the \$19 million Science and Engineering Research Facility which will contain School of Engineering labs.

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