

Physical Plant completes campus renovations

By Danielle Hollister
Staff Reporter

While some students and professors were basking in the sun listening to the peaceful sounds of the ocean this summer, the team at the Physical Plant was busy making noise with their power tools to complete campus renovations.

By now you've probably noticed some welcome changes to the buildings and the grounds. Two of the projects, designed to better serve the students' needs and improve the college's appearance include the addition of a lounge area on the third floor and the complete renovation of the two main usage stairtowers.

"The old stairtowers were a tunnel for noise," Ed Dankanich, physical plant manager said. "The new ones were designed to reduce noise, to soften up the appearance and to be visually and aesthetically appealing."

The choice in stairwell materials was also based on the need to

fulfill the fire codes. "The rubber floor helps with noise reduction and the carpet was chosen for acoustical reasons. The vinyl half way up the wall is a durable, cleanable material that does not require a lot of maintenance," Dankanich said. "The key is you don't appreciate how nice the new stairwell is until you walk down the old stairwells."

Fire doors are being installed on the third floor on floors through out the Olmsted building to improve their functioning capacity. "The new closures are smoke and heat activated which will make the fire doors work better," Dankanich said.

The decision to tear out the men's restroom on the third floor to make way for the new lounge was a difficult one. Based on student reaction, it seems to have been the right choice.

"I think it was a very good idea to convert the men's bathroom into the lounge," Stephanie Helwig, humanities, said. "I

really like the way it is decorated."

A portion of the decorating credit goes to the students and faculty who helped pick out the colors, Dankanich said. "Dr. Bobbi Bremer and Jeremy Francis were very helpful."

"I think the lounge looks very nice. It helps the appearance of the building. It seems appropriate on the third floor," Frank Divonzo, public policy, said. "It's also a nice change in the stairwells and it looks a lot better."

The changes were designed to improve the atmosphere for current students, as well as to attract new students to the campus.

"I think the renovations are a really good asset to the schools and I like the colors," Phany Pho, marketing, said. "Now we have more places to go study with peace and quiet besides the library."

Most other students echoed the same praise for the addition of an alternate study area.

"I like the lobby

area. It's a great area to study," Elaine Risner, communications, said.

"It's nice to have a place to sit down on the third floor," Desiree Fox, secondary education, said. "I think the seating area is an excellent idea," Priscilla Page, communications, said.

A few students did not see the renovations with the same positive outlook.

"I think the shoddy improvements suck," Scott McIntyre, accounting, said. "The money spent on the hallways was not worth it. Improvements to me would be more books in the library and a better selection of classes."

"It looks nicer but I didn't think we needed it," Danielle Bentsel, psychology, said. "But the lounge keeps people talking out of the computer lab."

Another project that the physical plant worked on over the summer was combining the admission and registration offices into

the building that housed the Center for Research and Graduate Studies.

"The building used to be an infirmary when this was an air-force base and the ceramic tiles on walls and floors were from the 1950's," Dankanich said. "With the quantity of work to be completed, the key was timing to get the advising area functioning in time for the arrival of new students."

The physical plant's successful timing allowed the staff to move into the new offices on July 27, 1995. Construction on the outside of the C.R.A.G.S. building, including all new window systems and a handicapped accessible entrance with a ramp for the physically challenged, is scheduled to begin later this semester.

"Future Penn State renovations of any buildings will be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act rules and regulations,"

Dankanich said.

The updated look of the building includes new carpeting, new ceilings and light fixtures, fresh paint and special locks and door handles to accommodate the physically challenged. A new fire protection system was also installed to meet the current township regulations.

Another project presently in progress is the Library Technical Services relocation to the old registrar's office.

"Moving the registrar's office also freed up space for the critical behind the scenes work of the library," Dankanich said. "This temporary move will allow the current library to add more shelves until the new library building opens in four or five years."

Various other renovations were completed in classrooms throughout the campus. Improvements in the Olmsted building were accomplished in the second floor conference rooms, the

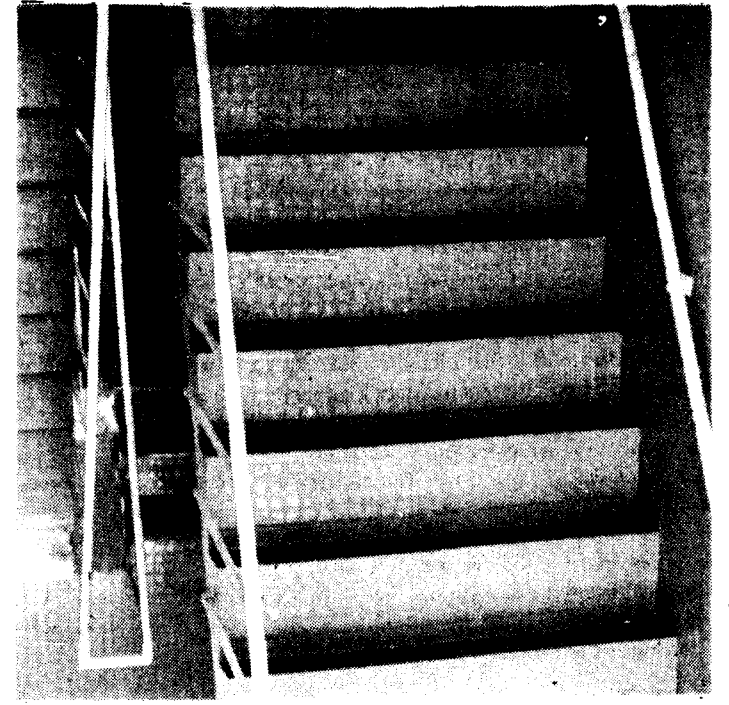


photo by Michelle Dauberman

Renovated Stairtower

Picture Teleconferencing rooms and the reading center room.

The lab rooms in the Science and Technology Building also received upgrades. New lighting was installed in the Television studio and in Meade Heights.

The grounds crew spent many hours this summer building an additional playground area for the Stepping Stones Child Care Center.

"The purpose was to create an additional area so the children from different age groups could have separate playgrounds and activities," Clarence Hardaway, Manager Buildings and Grounds, said.

"They did a wonderful job with the playground," Melissa Bell, Director Stepping Stones Child Care Center, said. "The kids love it and the parents were very impressed."

Landscaping and general maintenance continue to be performed on the grounds throughout the 177 acre campus. The grounds crew is also kept busy working on the 41

acres in the Meade Heights community.

"We made some vast improvements over the summer," Dankanich said. "I'm very happy with how the campus looks inside and out."

In addition to the regular care of the grounds, the crew planted different varieties of flowers and implemented new landscaping ideas.

"I think the grounds look great," Tina Premici-Carey, secondary education, said. "You can tell that professional landscaping was done."

"The flowers behind the Olmsted building are a refreshing surprise after as hectic day of classes," Tina Shearer, communications, said.

"The crews worked very hard this summer to get everything ready for the fall semester," Hardaway said. "They've done a great job in the buildings and on the grounds."

Grateful Dead Legacy continued from page 1

air, while the potent lyrics combine with the soothing sounds to create that unique feeling that touches the crowd only at a Dead show. The music and the experience together were something like what Frank Zappa once said about his own music, "You either get it or you don't." For those who got it, the long, strange trip at a Dead show will never be replaced.

Of course, as with Garcia himself, there were the good and the bad at the shows. Some fans did not contribute to the laidback, peaceful atmosphere encouraged by the Dead. There were those disruptive, wild fans who caused mayhem to erupt more recently at shows across the country.

Garcia and the band did not condone, nor promote, this type of behavior, however it was not within their power to completely prevent it either. The same holds true for those fans who chose the concerts as their haven to use drugs excessively. Some would say Jerry's own drug habits influenced his fans to indulge in the same way, but neither he nor the band advocated drugs and Garcia said that he abhorred the idea of himself as a leader or shaper of lives.

In fact some Grateful Dead songs even profess the danger of drug use. For example, the lyrics in "Truckin'": "Living on reds, Vitamin C and cocaine; all a friend can say is ain't it a shame," or in "Casey Jones": "Driving that train high on cocaine, Casey Jones you'd better watch your speed; trouble ahead, trouble behind..." and in "Candyman," Jerry sings about the drug pusher: "If I had a shotgun I'd blow him straight to hell." These lyrics may not have conveyed the intended meaning to those in the audience who were looking for their own rationalization of abuse.

The Dead are obviously a band of the sixties, who survived generations and continued to appeal to a variety of listeners. Drugs were certainly a part of life for many people in that initial, experimental time period which has carried into the 90's for some listeners. However, as Chris Horan wrote in the Houston Chronicle, "Jerry Garcia is not accountable for those in this audience who are not responsible and productive citizens. After all, Garcia had a job and was one of the hardest working people in his

field."

Evidence of this hard work is the band's performance at 70 to 80 shows each year on tour. Although the Dead only hit the Top 10 once with their single, "Touch of Grey" in 1987, they were one of the highest grossing touring acts in the history of rock 'n' roll.

Since 1985, they grossed \$330 million from North American concerts, according to the weekly trade publication, Pollstar. Time magazine said that the Dead was a phenomenon as a road band: it played before more people for more years than any combo in history. It was a time capsule for the elan of the '60's, hopeful and engaged, melodius and raucous.

Reuters wire service reported that court papers filed on August 24 show that Garcia left most of his estate to his widowed third wife, Deborah Koons Garcia whom he married on Valentine's Day last year. In his will, signed in 1994, Garcia wrote to his wife, "I give my jewelry, clothing, household furniture and furnishings, personal automobiles, books, pictures, objects of art and other tangible articles of a personal nature."

His widow also receives one-third of his money with the remaining two-thirds willed equally to his four daughters, Heather Garcia Katz, 32, Annabelle Walker Garcia, 25, Theresa Adams Garcia, 10 and Keelin Garcia, 8. Smaller amounts go to Garcia's brother, Clifford and to Sunshine May Walker Kelsey, daughter of his former wife, Carolyn Adams Garcia.

Garcia may be gone, but he is certainly not forgotten. His music will live on in the hearts and minds of deadheads around the world. The mourning period may continue indefinitely for some loyal listeners, who feel like they lost a friend. The legend provided a type of inexplicable inspiration for a vast range of people. It's doubtful that that feeling will ever return. For those people who never had the opportunity to experience a Dead Show, the best way to recreate the experience may be to listen to a bootleg tape, if you can get your hands on one. The Dead allowed taping at most of their concerts because as Garcia once said, "Once we make the music, it's not ours anymore, it's all of yours."

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needs of society.

Bruhn said PSH "should lead change rather than react to it," and higher education must be able to vision problems as well as solutions.

Bruhn highlighted his remarks with quotes from Dr. Seuss.

"When change is a choice, the possibilities are limitless," Bruhn said.



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