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New library opens soon

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New Library Opens Soon

By Bonnie Houdyshel
Guest Writer

One can hardly spend an ordinary day on Biola's campus without passing the newly completed Library Resource Center.

Set to open in October, the new building is the object of much excitement among the entire Biola population and especially the library staff.

"It is what libraries are becoming and what they have always been," says Biola Facilities Planning Director Ken Bascom, of the first academic building added to Biola since it became a university in 1981.

The project has been in full scale planning since 1992, when Bascom first began to mediate between the Biola students and faculty and the Gesler Architectural Company, who designed the building.

Two or three generations of

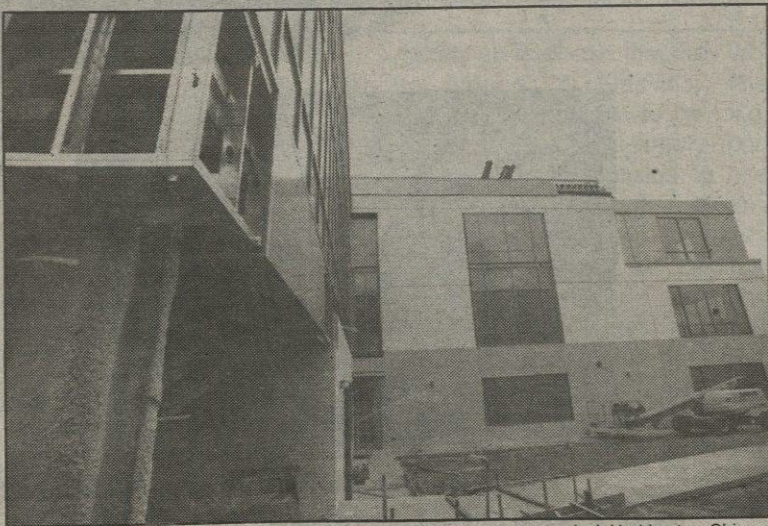
students ago, focus groups and while planning was first under-research took place to discover what sort of facility would best meet the needs of the Biola community.

Library Director Dr. Rod Vilet explained his vision for the building as a cross between a

way.

"I'm glad I came to Biola to do this," he said.

The building's design itself is a testimony to the mission of the university. A large lantern at the top level and a large amount of



Josh Yoshimoto - Chimes

monastery, with its focus on academic seclusion, and a student union, with room for interaction.

"Not just books anymore," comments Vilet, agreeing with Bascom's statement: "We'll have more places for people."

Dr. Vilet began his term as library director ten years ago,

natural light reflect the statements one sees upon entry and exit of the building. "I am the light

of the world," greets visitors coming in, and "You are the light of the world," serves as a reminder upon walking out.

"It is such a wonderful analogy between what a library does and

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New Library

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lection will be unavailable for a day or a day and a half while being moved.

Reference desk librarian Bob Krauss admits to being "overwhelmed" as well as excited by the move.

He reports some degree of disbelief that this project, while being "more work than we ever imagined," is so near completion.

Periodicals Student Worker Ruth Thomas shares Krauss' excitement about the new facility.

"I think it will become the new hangout," she says.

The "hangout" is an exciting prospect for a place to study, eat, and generally be. It would be easy to imagine spending the better part of a day there.

"You can just crash on a beanbag and never leave," jokes Dr. Vilet, "Though for now we'll have to kick you out at midnight."