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A Deer Through The Looking-Glass

By Chuck Heaton
Staff Writer

Libraries can expect to go through some wear and tear over the years. Scratched furniture, broken windows, stained carpet, all part of years of use, but few, if any, have it all happen on one day. Even fewer still can claim that all the dam-

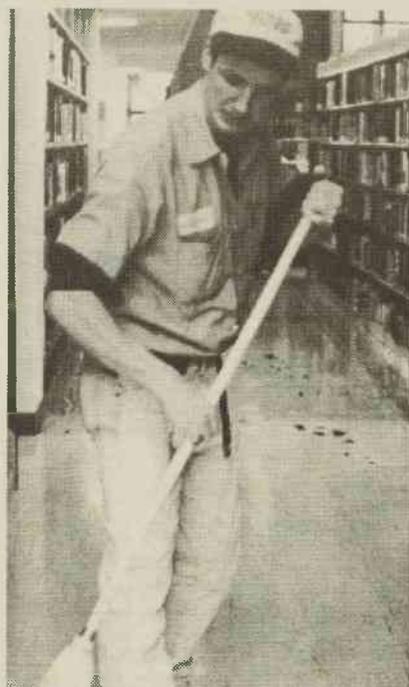


Photo by Bill Billings

Maintenance had to sweep up glass and clean off the carpets.

age was caused by a misguided buck crashing through a window, scratching up furniture and tables, and spilling blood all over the carpet. On Oct. 30 at around 1:20 p.m., just before kickoff at the homecoming game, that is exactly what happened to Davis Memorial Library.

According to Susan Pulsipher, director of the library, the ordeal started outside the north end of the library just above the brick facade. She and three students saw a panicked deer charge one of the windows of the library and crash through it. The deer then proceeded to run into the microfilm room looking for a way out. When it could not find one, the deer left the microfilm room and began to run across the library towards the circulation desk performing several acrobatic leaps to clear the desk and the laser printer located there. After the deer cleared the desk, he ran past several students who had climbed on top of the tables for protection and tried to find a way out along the west side of the library where there were several windows that were covered by mini-blinds. He then ran back and forth along the blinds apparently going into shock due to blood loss and plain old terror. By this time the Campus Police had arrived and began to try to coax the buck out of one of the emergency exits. After several minutes the police succeeded in releasing the deer and it ran back towards the woods.

While the ordeal was disturbing for

those around and inside the library at the time, it was almost certainly more terrifying for the young buck, which Police Chief Dave Reece said, was a "small deer." The buck lost an antler and an ear going through the window and several cuts on the mouth, legs, and side. After retreating to the woods the deer was not seen again, so it is not known whether the animal is alive or not. With the extent of the injuries the buck suffered it is assumed that he did not survive long afterwards.

The library did not suffer any irreparable damage; aside from the broken window, the deer scratched up some furniture which will not have to be replaced, knocked a leg off of an old table, destroyed some mini-blinds, and, most costly of all, spilt blood all over the carpet. The library could not put a price on the extent of the damage, but it was not a great expense, everything destroyed was easily replaceable and the carpet was cleaned before classes Monday.

What caused the deer to come crashing through the library? Pulsipher and Reece both agreed that more than likely the sun caused the buck to see his reflection and charge it. Pulsipher theorized that the deer had been driven out of the woods because it was the first day of the hunting season and the sight of four humans along with the reflection caused the animal to panic and charge.

What is most disturbing about this



Photo by Bill Billings

The deer charged through the window of the library.

event was that it was not the first time it had happened. Two years earlier around the same time of month and the same time of day another deer "jumped through one window and out another window." Pulsipher joked that this time "next year, we should put brown paper around all the windows." After all, the library is open to anyone, but the librarians prefer that you use the door.

Science Building Gets A Face Lift?

By Whitney Larrimore
Staff Writer

By the summer of 2000, President Hendricks hopes that the planned Science Building renovations will be well underway.

The Science Building is one of Methodist College's original classroom facilities. It was erected in the 1950s when Methodist College was built. Since that time, the Science Building has undergone some renovations. According to President Hendricks, within the past few years the Science Building has had its roof renovated, new ventilation installed, and a new lab created downstairs. "The Science Building is like an aging dowager; it needs a face lift. It is a fundamentally sound structure but, it has been around for a while. The renovations will... [improve] it."

"The Board of Trustees adopted a

strategic plan for Methodist College for the years 2000 through 2005," said Hendricks. "Renovating the Science Building is part of this plan. The strategic plan also called for an addition [to the Science Building,] but that is long term. If we do the renovations, they will take place over the next two years during the summers of 2000 and 2001."

Renovation is only possible, however, if it can be funded. President Hendricks could not disclose the source of the prospective funding and said that whether or not there will even be funding is still an uncertainty. However, he is hopeful that the funding will come through.

Dr. Folsom, the director of the division of science and mathematics and the biology department head, is excited about the

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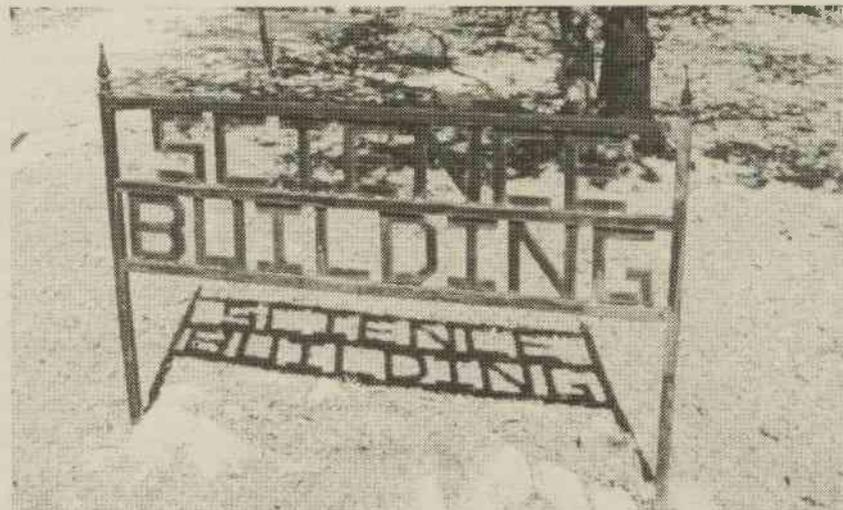


Photo by Krista McArtian

Much needed renovations to the science building may be forthcoming.