

Ulrich still up and running despite closed galleries

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Just like gymnastics requires balancing the body, the preservation of artwork requires balancing the air.

Humidity is a key factor.

"Too much water in the air isn't good for artwork, and too much dryness isn't good either," said Teresa Veazey, public relations manager for the Ulrich Museum of Art. "Artwork needs a good balance in the air."

Because of this, exhibitions inside the Ulrich will be closed to the public until as late as next fall to update the climate control system.

"We're not getting a new building, we're not expanding a gallery space. It's definitely a necessary thing to do," Veazey said. "The state and university have money set aside for maintenance. We've been on the list for awhile, and we're finally able to make it happen."

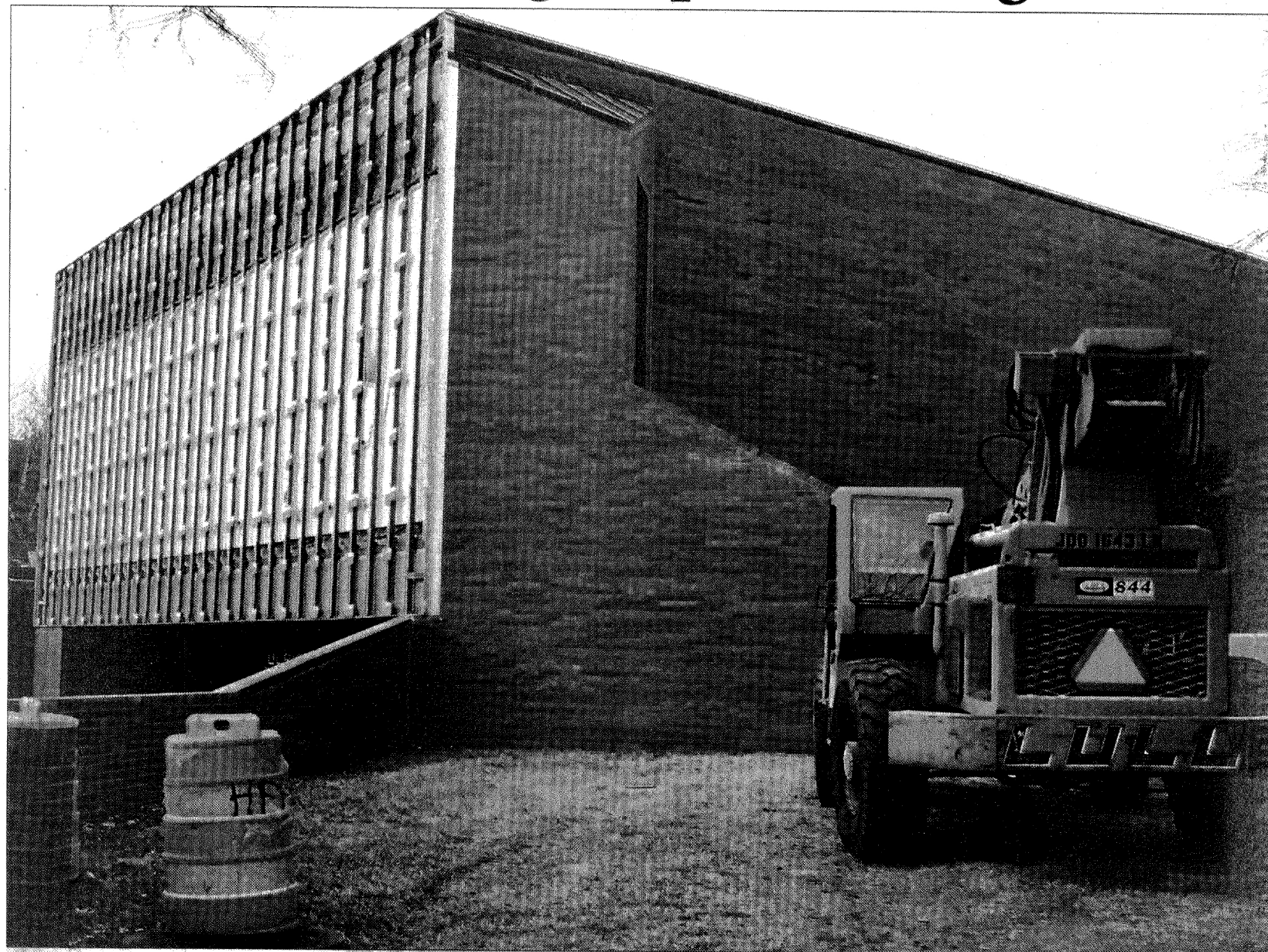
To compensate for the required renovations, many art-related events are scheduled throughout the semester for outside the museum's doors.

The next event, "Tell It Like It Is: Candor in Contemporary Video Art," will take place at noon Feb. 2 at CityArts in Old Town.

The first 50 guests who make reservations will receive a free lunch while watching three short films that address difficult subjects with humor.

Ulrich Curator Emily Stamey will discuss video art.

"When people walk by the museum, we want them to know that we still have events and programs going on," Veazey said. "We're not short on things to do. Even though the galleries



are closed, we want to maintain a presence, we want to be active and engaged."

Spring events will include a series of temporary sculptural installments in an exhibit called "Extraordinary Ordinary," featuring the works of internationally recognized artist Tony Feher.

The series begins in March.

The painted faceplates on the steel skeleton of the removed outdoor Miro painting are also the brainchild of Feher. The exhibit is titled "Carl Sagan, Carl Sagan" and

painted in DayGlo's "Safety Orange."

Veazey said another way to observe art outside the museum's doors is by booking a free, guided tour of the sculptures on campus. Groups of 10-12 can book tours by calling 316-978-3664.

"Students walk by the sculptures daily, and a tour is a fun way to learn more about sculptures on campus," Veazey said.

While art exhibits will be closed, employees' offices will remain open by appointment.

"The doors are closed, but the lights are still on," Veazey said.

