

*"In the old building, the students didn't have any place to study,  
and now they will have all kinds of room."*

— Lisa Black,

who started work at the Madden Library as a student in 1974 and has been there ever since



PHOTOS BY JOHN WALKER/THE FRESNO BEE

The large-clawed jaws of an excavator bring down sections of concrete walls reinforced with rebar Wednesday morning as a crew begins work to take down the north wing of California State University, Fresno's Madden Library.

## Noise librarians like

Demolition begins  
to pave way for new  
building full of books.

By Denny Boyles  
The Fresno Bee

**BOOM. BOOM. BOOM.**

Time and again, a metal wrecking ball swung back and forth Wednesday as workers started to demolish the old library at California State University, Fresno.

**BOOM. BOOM. BOOM.**

Again and again, the ball struck the lower wall of the north wing of the Madden Library at Fresno State without producing any signs of damage other than the resounding noise of its impact.

Staff librarians, watching the work, joked that maybe the building was stronger than they had thought.

Then the ball broke through, and the librarians laughed and talked about how they once had worked in rooms now open to the sky.

The \$1.2 million demolition is the next step in a project that will end



Dolores Pires, right, of the Madden Library staff takes a photo of co-workers, from left, Diana Takaragi, Glenda Harada and Cindy Renteria, in front of the library's west wing.

with construction of a \$95 million building, part of a combined 350,000-square-foot library.

The workers started with a mechanical claw that removed a section of the wall on the second floor.

Then it was time for the ball, which was needed to tear down the thicker walls of the first floor.

Construction managers said they

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