I was about to start this message stating there is not a whole lot of excitement to express on the Lecture Hall project this week. But then I got out of my office and that all changed. The Lecture Hall construction site is about twenty steps away from my desk, and there were all sorts of things to see this morning, so my perception quickly refocused. Concrete saw cutting, jackhammering, and mud pouring galore were all taking place at the same time.

The dueling concrete diamond blade saws are back. Those things make so much noise it is hard to believe somebody can put up doing that type of work for five days a week. Refer to the attached photo named “saw cutting”. The saw cutter has a rail that is secured to the building to hold his saw and which also guides him in making a straight cut. A blast of water is used to keep the blade from overheating and dually keeps concrete dust out of the air, but he gets blasted with this slurry of concrete residue and the noise is awful. I certainly couldn’t put up with it, and I get the feeling you would have to be somewhat crazy to do so.

Mentioning the word crazy brings up something I read in the news this week: “Texas is so nuts it's become synonymous with "crazy" in Norway, according to a Tumblr thread discussing use of the word first reported on by Texas Monthly.”

“The publication compiled multiple instances of Norwegian speakers using the word online, including a police chief describing a situation concerning reckless foreign truck drivers as, roughly translated, "absolutely Texas" and a story about a fisherman's uncommon swordfish sighting being, also roughly translated, “totally Texas.”” I ran across this information on the Huffington Post Weird News section. I’m not making fun of Texas, yet it sure would be simple to do so. But I find it interesting that a periodical regarding Texas seems to be embracing the “crazy” aspect. I don’t think any respectable publication in Washington State would embrace the “crazy”, weird maybe, but not crazy.

Anyway, also attached are a few photos of today’s mud pour. One worker guides the concrete chute, one uses a large vibrator tool to help get any air bubbles out of the concrete while also helping it spread out in the formwork, two other workers come behind and trowel the concrete to the height of the formwork. Great teamwork in action. More of the same for next week’s work.

Enjoy the weekend!

Cheers,
Tim