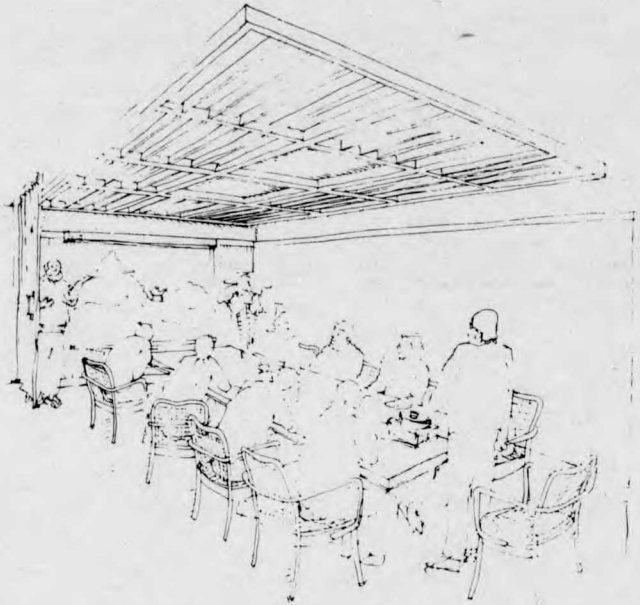


# York University Student



Private Dining or Committee Room

## WHY DOES YORK UNIVERSITY NEED A STUDENT BUILDING?

There are a number of reasons why York needs a Student Centre. The principal one is to help to continue to build a community at York. The Student Centre Steering Committee's consultations with students reinforces the evidence that York lacks a clear identity. The committee feels that a centrally-located structure devoted to student use would revitalize that aspect of university life, one which is badly needed here. Such a Student Centre would provide easy access to key services as well as rooms and space for the sharing of activity and knowledge outside the classroom setting. Students benefit immensely from the formal component of their studies, but education is more than curriculum. Interchange with colleagues and friends is a crucial element of the university experience. A Student Centre would be an invaluable catalyst to this type of activity.

Moreover, some student services are simply not provided at York University. For example, there is no large centrally-located multi-purpose hall. Most services are available to students on a decentralized basis. However, there is a distinct lack of campus-wide services or activities. Naturally, some activities can only be supported if a substantial cross-section of the student community is involved. At present time, this sort of activity is impaired by the lack of large centrally available rooms. In turn, the overall social and cultural life of the campus is undermined.

The Student Centre initiative is also a recognition that York University is a major university within a large metropolitan area and adjacent to other rapidly growing regions. The reality of York University is that the bulk of the student population are commuter students. It is generally recognized that the commuter population is not served with the same effectiveness as residence students who live on campus. As a consequence, it is felt that a Student Centre building would be aimed towards

a more efficient provision of services for the commuter population and thus augment their community life, as well as enhancing the services currently enjoyed by residence students.

## HOW HAS THE STUDENT CENTRE INITIATIVE DEVELOPED?

Over the past year, a group of student leaders has been engaged in discussing the desirability and feasibility of constructing a Student Centre. Under the umbrella of the Student Centre Steering Committee, considerable investigation of design, cost and management questions has taken place. In September, 1984, the Steering Committee met with the heads or representatives of the fourteen student governments here at York. At that meeting, the committee received unanimous support in principal for the project.

In the intervening months, the Steering Committee has held detailed meetings with a host of student organizations to learn their views about the Student Centre project. At these meetings, the committee explored the specific concerns raised by some student governments about aspects of the project. As well, the committee received a large number of suggestions as to what ought to be included in the Student Centre. The range of those suggestions has been enormous indeed and has greatly helped the committee's efforts. In addition, the steering committee has undertaken a number of other tasks. Extensive investigations of the operation and financing of other student buildings on university campuses elsewhere have been done. Tentative planning and design work has been launched with the assistance of a professional architect. Discussions have begun with the university administrators, particularly with the Department of Facilities Planning and Management and the Provost's Office, about the feasibility of proceeding with the initiative. The possibilities of securing grants from the provincial government and the corporate sector have been and continue to be explored. Finally, the committee is conducting a survey of student attitudes towards a Student Centre and to learn what preferences they have about what ought to be included and where it ought to be located.

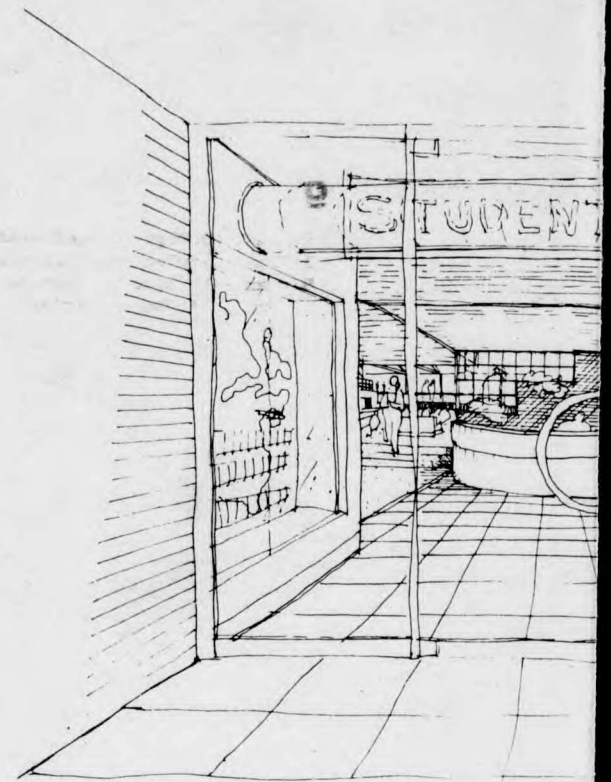
## WHAT COULD BE IN A NEW STUDENT CENTRE?

Within the Student Centre would be university wide services that do not take away from College activity and present a Campus-wide setting for activity that benefits the whole student community. These can be broken down into a number of categories:

First we would find student services administered by student governments themselves. Consequently, some of the student governments would have their offices within the building. As well, other student-run services might be found there such as a typing service for students or a student-run photocopy service. Meeting rooms and club rooms for students could also be deemed essential.

Second, there could be university offices which students must use throughout their university career. These could include such things as the Office of Student Affairs, the Foreign Student Advisor, the Career Centre and other offices that might be called front-line student services.

Third, there could be services which would be student run



Entry and Information

or operated under the aegis of student organizations. These might include a cafeteria, a restaurant, a pub, and other generalized food and beverage services that might be of interest to students.

Fourth, there could be services of interest to the general university community. Among possible commercial establishments, there could be a convenience store, a drug store, and other stores similar to those that are now found in Central Square.

Fifth, services to the wider community such as community Legal Aid, or the Daycare Centre could be located in the Student Centre.

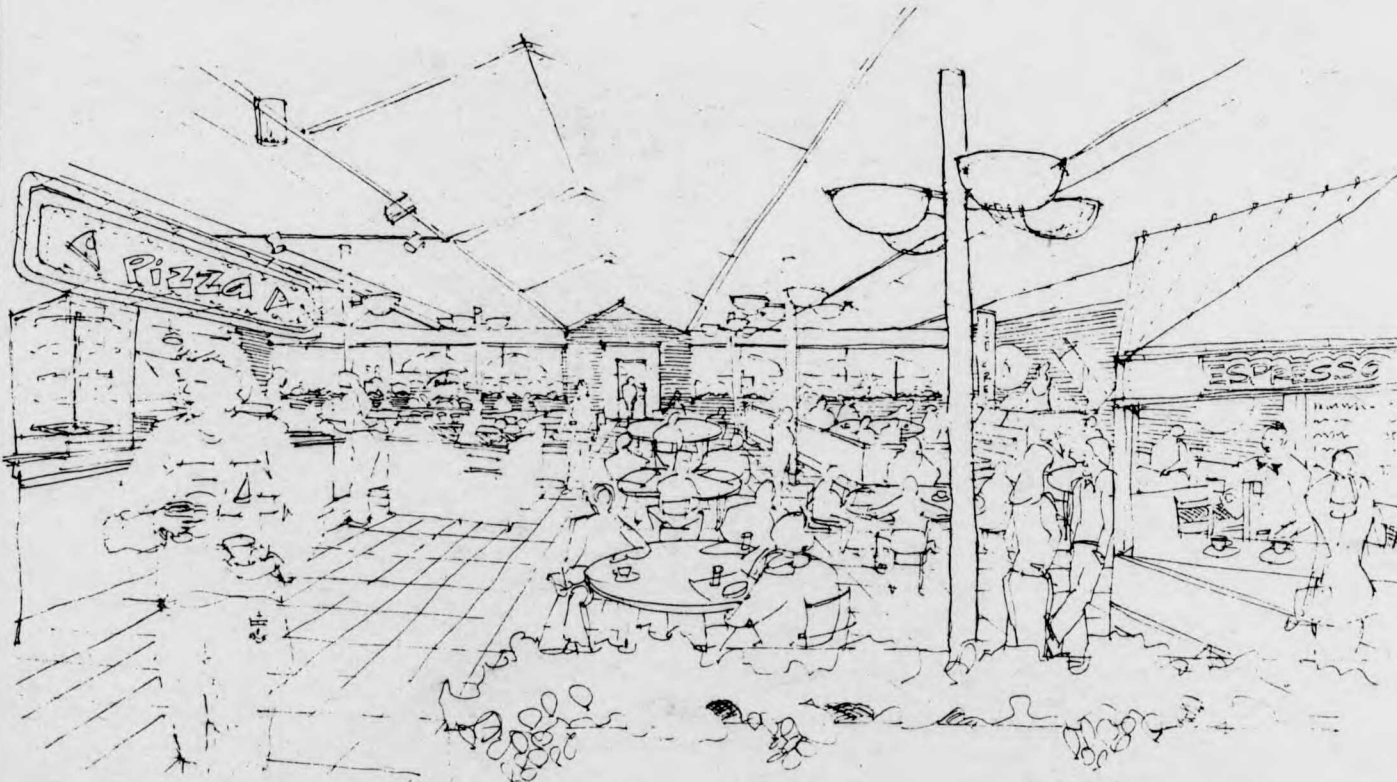
In addition, it is possible that student organizations could negotiate a commercial lease or a shared-cost agreement with those interests that are currently investigating a university club for its possible inclusion within the Student Centre building.

Further, academic resources could be located within the new building. Provisions could be made for study space or word-processing and computer facilities as appropriate. It might as well be convenient for the University bookstore to be located in this central location.

It is also expected that such a Student Centre building would obtain meeting facilities and large multi-purpose facilities such as a hall which could be used not only for meetings and guest lectures but for dances and other social activities on campus such as film presentations. Others have suggested that the Student Centre building include sports facilities. Among the suggestions have been squash and racquetball courts, or gymnasiums and a swimming pool.

## DOES THE STUDENT CENTRE THREATEN COLLEGE AUTONOMY?

No, the Student Centre represents the provision of new services for students and making sure that the bulk of students have access to student services. The Steering Committee has welcomed the enthusiastic support of various student



Cafeteria and Food Bars



Fireplace

**Check out the information kiosks in Bearpit  
FEB. 28, MARCH 1, 4 AND 5**