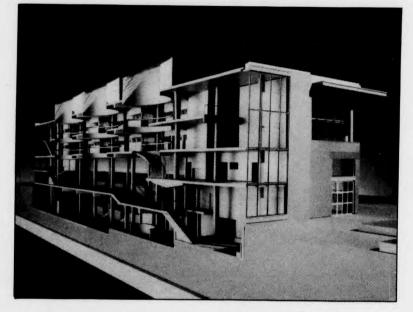
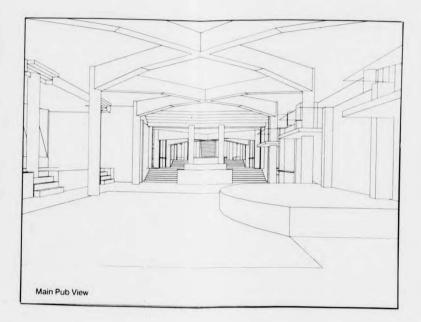
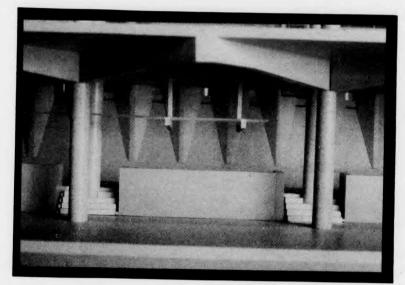
The Student Centre:







by Ira Nayman

After months of delays and promises, we can look forward to

AROOM OF OUR OWN

by Ira Nayman

It's three months late and \$4 million over budget, but, when it is finally completed, the York University Student Centre, according to Rob Castle, General Manager of the Student Centre Board, will be "outstanding," with a "tremendous visual interaction."

It should also be a great place to hang out.

The student centre will have four floors aboveground and a basement. It will contain everything from a child care centre to a games room, from a food court to numerous offices for student clubs, from YFS to CHRY and Excalibur.

The student centre architect made "a real commitment to natural light," said Castle. Thus, unlike current facilities in Central Square, there will be large windows that open for offices on exterior walls and three skylights that allow light to enter the interior of all four floors.

"From the architect's original design, I never imagined they would be so impressive . . . so dominating," Castle remarked about the skylights.

("Yeah," you say, "Skylights. Big holes in the ceiling. Big deal. What about the important stuff? What about —" Relax. We'll get to it.)

The food court will contain seven fast food restaurants; burgers, pizza, Chinese, deli and others will be represented. The space will seat 550 people in three seperate areas, one of which will have the potential to be rented out for private functions. Castle claimed that this will give the food court the "highest seating capacity in Metro Toronto on an outlet to seat ratio:"

The part-time child care facility, with space for 27 children, will include a small stage/story theatre, full kitchen, quiet room, resource centre and playground. Spaces will be available to students and members of the Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW).

("Okay, okay," you insist, "That's all very interesting, but —" Hey — don't get pushy. I said I'd get to it,

Approximately 50 offices will be devoted to clubs. Although small, most containing one desk and a chair or two, they will ensure that "clubs don't have to work out of knapsacks, as they currently do," said Castle. He explained that the York University Student Centre Programming Committee asked the Clubs Coalition to establish a fair system of allocating the space. As with most of the student centre's operations, the first year will be "a process of trial and error," Castle said, that will have to be "very closely monitored."

The Peer Support Centre will also get space in the new student centre, tucked away on the fourth floor. Castle claimed that this placement is "more sensitive" to the needs of troubled students than the current space in Central Square.

("Look, are we -" Almost. Just a couple more

According to Castle, there is "significant ramping on the first floor" of the student centre, making it "one hundred per cent accessible" to students with disabilities. Access to all other floors will be by

One other feature of the student centre will be a 21 foot glass walkway that runs the length of the building. According to Castle, it is meant to connect with



The York Student Centre will become the new student hangout once it is finally opened January 1991. It will include many offices for student clubs (including Excalibur), a child care centre, large central pub, games room and food

Unfortunately, the Student Centre is behind schedule and over budget. The student levy that pays for the construction and maintenance of the buildingwas first collected last year. The Centre's board of directors now has to decide whether to refund this money or risk further financial mismanagement.

the entry pavilion to the Ross building when that is completed, and then to the Fine Arts building. Thus, all the buildings at this end of the campus will eventually be connected. "It really is a grand space," Castle said of the walkway.

("Now?" Now . . .)

The basement of the student centre will contain a (still unnamed) pub with a seating capacity of 720. The pub will be divided into three spaces: an upper area where food will be served, a mid-level "mixing and mingling" area and the main space with a dance floor and seating booths. When it is complete, the pub will be one of the largest student facilities of its kind in Canada.

The food area will have a "full service restaurant," said Castle, which will be "a cut above," the fast food court. For this reason, he does not expect competition between the two. The mid-level area will contain a stand-up bar with a minimum number of stools.

The main area, with a capacity of 492, will include a stage which, because it is only two feet above the dance floor, can be used for dancing, a raised area in the back for booths and tables, two more bars (including a specialty bar) and a DJ booth suspended from the ceiling. Requests will be sent to the DJ by means of a bucket and a pulley.

"We wanted to provide the equal of any club downtown," Castle explained. Although he doesn't expect many bands to play the pub, he believes it offers "a great opportunity to programme for alternative" York communities. These could include comedy, jazz, dinner theatre or performances by York

(There. Are you satisfied? "Yeah. Thanks.")

One construction strike and a reconstructed sewer system later, the York University Student Centre will finally be finished. According to Rob Castle, General Manager of the Student Centre Board, about 65% of the facility is complete; it should be occupied by December, opened in January, 1991 and completed by February of that year.

and Peter Stathis

The current cost is \$20.5 million, said Castle, up from the original \$15.934 million. The centre is being paid for by a student levy of nine dollars per course (\$45 per full time student per year). The levy was approved by referenda in 1987 and 1988; collection of the levy was started in May, 1989.

"Morally and ethically, we have a problem," with collecting the first year's fee said York Students Federation President Jean

The first clause of the referendum, according to Ghomeshi, stated that the levy would only start to be collected from the first group of students to use the Student Centre. But, owing to the delays in construction, a class which paid fees will graduate before getting any use out of the building.

Ghomeshi, an automatic member of the Student Centre Corporation (SCC) Board owing to his position, would like to see a refund for the money available for students who request it. He admitted that this would mean it would take five to eight years longer to pay off the debt from the Student Centre, but he felt that it was necessary.

"For too long, administrators have been running this place like a business," he said. "The Student Centre should be run according to students interests."

(The Student Centre is the only building on campus paid for directly by students. Students make up a majority of the SCC Board, on which only two members from the administration sit; all five executive board members are students.)

SCC Chairperson Chia-Yi Chua agreed that the Corporation could refund the money, even if it meant taking a longer time to pay off the loan. "I don't see that as a problem . . . " he said. "I wouldn't be ecstatic, but there are things I am prepared to take."

However, Chua pointed out that if the finances were so drastically disrupted, the administration might try to renegotiate its Management Agreement (MA) with the SCC. In that case, he feared that control of the Student Centre would be taken away

"Clearly, we are up against the wall," Chua said.

"This is where it gets difficult," Ghomeshi admitted. "If there is empirical evidence . . . to show we would have to renegotiate the MA," he said, and that student control of the SC would be lessened as a result, he wouldn't push for the refund.

So far, though, Ghomeshi has seen no proof that the MA would be renegotiated to the detriment of students. "I haven't been convinced." he said.

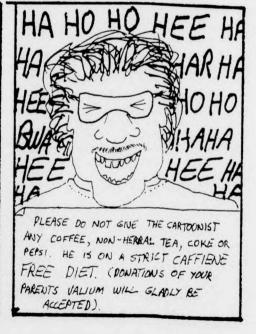
Chua also justified deciding not to offer a refund by pointing out that the second clause of the referendum called for "sound financial management" of the Student Centre.

Students interested in learning more about the finances of the Student Centre are invited to a meeting on Wednesday, September 26 from noon to 2pm in the Senate chambers.











HEY PAL, ARE YOU REX?







KNOW WHERE HIS

HIDEOUT IS