

CROSSCANADA

Raise high the roof beam

TORONTO (CUP) Studying in a recession that has severely reduced building development across Canada, today's architecture students are afraid that there won't be much to look forward to after graduation.

Statistics on construction values in Metro Toronto, the industry professional architects depend on for their livelihood, show a significant drop in activity. According to statistics Canada, the construction values for residential and non-residential units in Metro Toronto dropped by approximately 50 per cent between 1989 and 1991, from \$10 billion to \$5 billion.

Professors in the faculty say because architecture is so closely linked to Canada's faltering development industry, architecture graduates are being particularly hard-hit by the recession.

"When developers stop spending money, when they stop building, you're going to have a poor market for grads," said Linda Irvine, an assistant professor in landscape architecture.

Students on their way to completing degrees in architecture and landscape architecture say even after the five years of academic and practical training the faculty demands, job prospects aren't good.

Little black (blank) book

MONTREAL (CUP) — Dan Etcheverry spent two and a half years making up fictitious names when his fraternity brothers asked who he was dating. Last November, he finally came out.

"I was tired of playing games and hiding everything. So I started telling a few close friends I was gay and then I told the fraternity," said Etcheverry, a Concordia political science student and member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

"I was really nervous they wouldn't accept me. But I was actually very surprised. They said 'You're gay. So what. No problem.'"

Etcheverry said he joined Tau Kappa Epsilon in his first semester at Concordia to make friends. When he realized he was gay, he was afraid of coming out because he was afraid of being rejected.

"In any group you belong to, you'll think there are homophobes and I didn't want to confront it," he said. "But when I finally did it, I realized there was nothing to confront."

On the job training cost

TORONTO (CUP) A Worker's Compensation Board (WCB) proposal could mean thousands of students will find themselves with no place to do the practical training their degrees require, critics say.

The proposal would require employers to foot the bill for worker's compensation coverage for their unpaid student placements.

"If the employers were required to pay, most (students) would find their placement in jeopardy," said Ian Calvert, executive director for the Ontario Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology.

Under the new plan, 50 000 college and 20 000 university students in fields as diverse as nursing, physical therapy, pharmacy and police work would come under the extended umbrella of the WCB, said Calvert.

In the past, student trainees were not taken into account when the WCB assessed rates employers would have to pay. Elizabeth Brown, WCB's senior policy analyst, said the current proposal is a response to employer concerns over whether they were liable for damages if student trainees got hurt on the job.

Student reps say while it is true that accident coverage for trainees is insufficient, if employers who are already doing a "civic duty" by taking on trainees are asked to pay more to worker's comp, they will stop taking students altogether.



DAL PHOTO: MIKE DAVENPORT

A very happy birthday!

by Judy Reid

Fourteen months of petitioning, fundraising, organizing, canvassing and campaigning have resulted in a small yellow house on South Street, number 6143, becoming the home of Dalhousie's first ever Women's Centre.

To coincide with International Women's day, the Centre officially opened on Monday, March 8 to the cheers of more than fifty women, men and children.

"It's amazing the diversity of the people helping us," said Candida Rifkind, VP external for the Dalhousie Student Union.

As part of the celebrations, Robin Mackinnon from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design sang a traditional folk ballad. Barb Harris, the President's Advisor on Women described an experience she had a student at McGill. She was one of hundreds and hundreds of women arrested during a women only demonstration in 1968/69 to protest a new by-law banning all demonstrations.

"We've been the ones prepared to put ourselves on the line," she said. "Remember all those women who made it possible to have a Women's Centre at Dalhousie."

Activist, poet and educator Maxine Tynes read aloud her poem *Woman Quest* and expressed her joy in the Women's Centre becoming a reality. "Virginia Wolfe said we have to have a room of our own," said Tynes. "Well now we've got a house of our own!"

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, the crowd moved into the Centre where it was standing room only. The opening was a success, but it appeared that those involved in the opening of the Women's Centre had little time to savor any sense of accomplishment.

"What do we do now?! We have

to run it!" exclaimed Rifkind. "We need volunteers for filing, collecting resources, talking to women coming in, talking to men coming in..." and the list went on.

Right now the greatest concern is the upcoming referendum running from Tuesday, March 16 to Thursday, March 18. By voting, students decide if a \$2.00 levy per full-time student and \$1.00 levy per part-time student, from their student fees should support the Women's Centre.

"I'm voting yes," said human being Peter Edwards, "because it's about time that Dalhousie had something progressive going on. I think it will be great when students accept the responsibility of keeping this going."

Sandra Tounishey from the Dalhousie Employment Equity Centre encouraged students to take the time to make an informed vote. "Until you've actually come to a women's centre you can't know what good they do," she said. "If you come, check it out and see what they do, you'll see that \$2.00 is not a lot of money to pay for it."

When asked why students should vote in favour of the levy, Rifkind simply replied, "We need the money." Funding would go towards hiring a

staff person, buying necessary equipment as well as making the centre accessible to wheelchair users.

"One of the factors in choosing this location is that it is the most easily made accessible," explained Tryna Booth. "By voting yes, people can show their support for women friends, families and partners."

The Centre will be offering a resource library referral service for women and men with one room reserved for women only.

"If men want to come in and want to know how to help, the door is wide open," said Tounishey.

One woman, Anna Quon said she can see why the Centre should be open to men, but stressed the need of having a 'safe place'. "It's important that there should be a certain place only for women," she said. "Women are so used to being in front of men's eyes and doing things because of them."

Noon, Tuesday found Tryna Booth and Lara Morris smiling and sitting on the front porch of the small yellow house on South Street. "It hit me last night," said Morris. "We finally have a Women's Centre."

"And we just can't stop smiling," added Booth.



A couple of proud parents