

# Food court called green threat

by Jeannine Amber

The Student Centre Corporation hasn't done enough to make the new building environmentally friendly, according to some students.

Most complaints focus on the amount of garbage generated by the six fast food outlets in the main-floor food court.

David Langer, an Atkinson student, says he is "pissed off" that the

centre didn't include a dishwashing system for the restaurants.

Most of the restaurants use styrofoam, plastic or cardboard dishes which cannot be recycled.

Langer says the fast food establishments should have been supplied with engraved dishes and a common dishwashing area "so that cleanup staff could do the dishes and redistribute them."

Collette Boileau, co-facilitator for

environmental group Envision York, said her group is "disappointed that there are so many fast food restaurants with disposable dishes and no consideration given toward eliminating that type of thing." Restaurant owners offered different explanations for the lack of reusable dishes.

Charlie Korinis, owner of the Shopsy's franchise in the building, said using dishes would be unfeasible in the small area the outlets have.

Won Park, owner of Panzerotto and Pizza, said the system would be difficult to administer "because everyone uses a different size (of dish)."

A Wendy's head office employee who asked not to be named said Wendy's franchises do not use dishes because of concern over "detergent going into the system, which is not good for the environment."

Chia-Yi Chua, Chair of the Student Centre Corporation, said leases for the food court were signed before he became involved with the centre, "so we couldn't dictate to (the fast food vendors)."

Rob Castle, who negotiated with the food outlets in 1989, admits he didn't speak to any environmental groups until after the contracts had been signed.

Cara Clairman, a waste management consultant for the Student Centre, says the Centre is more environmentally responsible than other buildings on campus.

"They've spent a lot of money on environmental initiatives... they've been very receptive to recycling and re-use ideas."

The centre's environmental initiatives include recycling bins (soon to be installed in the food court and the upstairs offices), and reusable condiment dispensers and ceramic dishes in the downstairs restaurant.

Chua said these initiatives have been expensive. The dishwashing system, dishes and dispensers have cost the centre over \$25,000 and the recycling containers close to \$2,000.

According to Clairman, "You do the best with what you've got and on that front the SCC is doing pretty well."



Students eating from ozone-destroying styrofoam and non-recyclable cardboard on the non-renewable faux marble tables of the Student Centre's food court leave their mess behind.

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## Grads call discount "bullshit"

by Jeannine Amber

Students who paid for the Student Centre and graduated before the building was complete are going to get some compensation — but not much.

The Student Centre Corporation (SCC) will be giving a 15 percent discount to all 1990 and 1991 graduates on food served in its 700-seat restaurant. This to reimburse them for the money they spent on the construction of the building.

"The SCC feel they want to make up to these people to say we are sorry... all excuses for being late sound hollow unless we do something," said Chia-yi Chua, Chair of the SCC.

York students pay an annual fee of nine dollars per course for the centre. The building was supposed to be completed in February 1990. Students who graduated in 1991 paid 90 dollars for facilities many of them would not be using.

Nancy Levene, who graduated from York this year, says the discount isn't good enough.

"A discount at the restaurant is largely an inadequate solution to the problem. Many students will not be returning to York and don't live in the region."

"It's bullshit," said Trevor Campbell, who does not plan to return to York in the fall. "They know they aren't going to have to pay out the full amount because not everyone is going to be able to make it up [to York] to take advantage of the discount."

Approximately 12,000 students graduated in 1990 and 1991. No figures are available on how many plan

to return to York to work or study.

The discount is valid for one year.

Allan Jones, president of the Graduate Students Association said the idea "sounds like a good one. There were a lot of people who were annoyed about having graduated and never used [the building]."

The student centre cost \$23 million. In addition to being late, it is also \$8 million over budget. The student levy will remain in place until the building is paid off.

Chia-Yi said he hopes the discount might attract recent graduates to come back to the school and interact with

other students.

Linda Keith of the York Alumni Association said graduates will be informed of the discount in the alumni magazine *York University Profiles*. But Keith was unwilling to comment on whether or not the discount is a fair deal.

## New science building slated

by Deqa Halbeh

York students will soon get a much-needed new science building.

The \$14.6 million building, announced by the provincial government in June, will house the departments of chemistry and computer science.

While Kimmo Innanen, dean of the faculty of science, said he is "absolutely delighted" about the new building, he also said it only partly relieves the science department's shortage of space. "This is all very

welcome news, but it is a drink of water for a person dying of thirst," said professor Innanen. "We are still 50,000 square ft. short of space just

for chemistry." The \$14.6 million grant was announced June 28 by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. It is part of a \$110 million funding package to renovate Ontario's overcrowded universities and colleges.

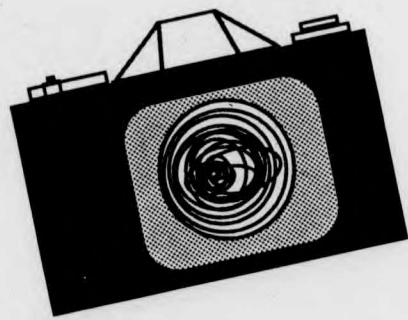
According to Bob Kanduth, spokesperson for the minister of Colleges and Universities, "enrollement has mushroomed dramatically in re-

cent years, and this new building is desperately needed to ease overcrowding in laboratories and classes."

"Right now part of the chemistry department is in the Petrie building and the other part is in Farquharson building," said Alok Goel, a graduate student of chemistry.

"This is inconvenient to us, because half the instruments are at Petrie and the other half Farquharson."

Science is currently short 100,000 square ft. for the departments of chemistry and computer science, according to professor Innanen.



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