

\$3.7 million project

SUB Opens This Weekend

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Well, folks, here it is at last, the fabulous, expensive SUB. The grand opening, Nov. 8, 9, 10, comes as a source of great pride to the long-suffering leaders of the student union, and as a great relief to the student body, suffering from a massive two-month bombardment of SUB-opening trivia in the GAZETTE. So here it is, and this is your weekend to start making it useful - do your thing in it. But remember: Big Brother is watching you. Closely.

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Law school unloads cultural bombshell

By BILL DYER

The Dalhousie Law School has not flipped its proverbial powdered wig; but it has installed two sculptures at the entrance to the Weldon Building.

Gordon Smith (ARCA) of Arundel, Quebec, was commissioned to do the sculptures. When interviewed by the GAZETTE, he explained that the two pieces were intended to illustrate in sequence two aspects of the single theme of law. The exterior piece is intended to represent the dichotomy of law as certain and stable yet flexible and changing. He said the book-like shields gradually move from a stable, firm state to a more flexible pattern. The jury of figures emphasizes the challenge of the law to reach the people and its concern for justice for all. The piece on the exterior plaza is of Car-Ten steel which will eventually weather to a rich, purplish-brown colour.

The interior sculpture of brazed-bronze adds the expression of an ideal: the concept of a universal system of law.

Smith stressed that concern for a work of art that was simply "attractive" or "nice" was not of primary importance. Emphasis was placed on the law school as an adventuresome creative and stimulating place. The sculptures were designed to reflect these

qualities by employing a contemporary medium, using modern materials and techniques.

Initial reaction to the sculptures ranged from outright hostility to pleasant surprise. Smith said it was most important that the viewer had "some reaction".

"If a work of art is not open to a multitude of interpretations and responses," he said, "it is not a work of art."

Smith noted the readiness of a number of students to criticize his work even before the structures were completed. He said smiling that he found this hard to reconcile with the legal maxim, "Innocent Until Proven Guilty".

For a young artist, Smith has already had impressive success with shows at five galleries including the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. Major works of his have been commissioned for numerous private collections including, the International Nickel Company of Toronto and the Canadian Pavilion at Expo.

Smith stressed that these sculptures were part of the mind-stretching process that education should be. He is hopeful that many students and teachers on campus will take time to "experience" the sculptures, not once but often in the years to come.

