

Main Building — An Update

by Kaberi Dasgupta

One of the mysteries encountered by David Bergmark, the architect in charge of the renovation of Main Building was the following: what was preventing the Political Studies-Philosophy

Lounge from being buried by an avalanche of concrete from the bathroom above it? (Whether or not this has anything to do with the occupants of the lounge has yet to be determined.) Other enigmas include the evolutionary history of the building's staircases and the cause of the unevenness of the floors. Mr. Bergmark thus decided to employ a solution reminiscent of Steven Spielberg's "The Money Pit": demolition of the interior.

PRESERVATION

Mr. Bergmark suspects that the floors of the building became deflected (uneven) soon after the building was built as a result of poor construction. Though the floors and walls must be replaced, attempts are being made to preserve and even enhance the character of Main Building.

The original window trimming has been left untouched and by filling Main Building with "light and airiness", Mr. Bergmark believes that such details will be accentuated.

The marble on the floor of the first level will be

retained, but that of the original staircases cannot be used as these staircases are being replaced and the marble cannot be removed from them. It has not yet been decided whether new marble, some other tile, or carpet will be used on the new staircases.

The ceilings and walls, many of which were covered with cheap wood panelling, will be plastered. Mr. Bergmark wishes to preserve the original plaster moulding on the ceiling of the Bishop's Parlour, though the ceiling itself will be new. The Bishop's Parlour, which, prior to renovation, served as Mr. Ian MacDonald's office, will become a for-

mal meeting room, containing memorabilia from St. Dunstan's University. Mr. MacDonald will move next-door. Main Building was once used as a men's residence and the Bishop's parlor was where visiting parents could meet with their sons. At that time, parents were not allowed upstairs into the rooms.

In order to integrate the "English" annex with the rest of the building, a third floor will be added to the annex. This floor will contain either small classrooms or seminar rooms and offices. A loss which Mr. Bergmark mourns, however, is that of the "trees" (columns) on the fourth floor; since no one

else wanted them, something else will be holding up the roof.

CHANGES

In accordance with the idea of creating open, airy spaces, the faculty lounge and what was formerly the mail room will form a single hall where functions and receptions may be held. The downstairs will be located near the "Student Services" entrance; thus it will no longer be necessary to go through what was formerly the Student Services area to go elsewhere in the building. This increased efficiency will be important as there will be more classrooms in the building than before.

The old Student Services area itself is to become a large classroom with alcoves for seats. Altogether six new classrooms will be created in the building, each capable of seating forty-five to fifty students. Some of the classrooms will be tiered. There will also be approximately one lounge per department. Ramps are to be built at the main entrance and the back entrance to make the building more accessible.

The staircase locations will also be slightly altered, and the staircases will be constructed such that from any given level, floors above and below can be partially viewed, again creating openness. Once tired of such aesthetic details, however, one is free to take the elevator, an addition that will undoubtedly excite the occupants of the third and

fourth floors. The depth of the basement will be increased by digging further into the ground. The GEM office will be located in the basement (near the elevator) as will three classrooms which together will be able to accommodate two hundred and fifty students. Furthermore, near what was formerly the "Student Services" entrance to the building, there will be an opening in the floor to bring more light into the basement.

THE SCHEDULE

The demolition phase, which is now complete, cost approximately one hundred thousand dollars. The structural phase, involving such things as the placement of beams, will cost about five hundred thousand dollars; this stage will begin this week. The general contract will be awarded in December and will involve two to three million dollars. Construction is to be completed by August, 1988.

Phased construction has allowed more time for changes in design, which are still being made. Mr. Bergmark says that he has interviewed student groups, the faculty, and the administration, and has endeavoured to take into consideration their ideas. If all goes according to schedule, we shall see the results next September!

MEANWHILE, OVER AT CASS

CHEAP POP ISN'T all the we have in the Cass Chemistry Centre. True, our pop is priced at 65 cents a bottle, and we do offer 5-Alive in cans, but something else is happening.

If you're in Chem-221 or greater, then you can be a *Real Chemmie*. To qualify: just take at least 6 semester hours of chemistry courses per semester, attend meetings of the chemistry society, and/or both.

The UPEI Chemistry Society has bonded to-

gether again for another year. At their first meeting, last Friday, they discussed several topics including the executive and the chem party that people look so forward to.

This year, the sophomore representative, junior representative, secretary, treasurer, vice-president, and president are respectively Randy MacKinnon, Stephen Hughes, Kelly Charlesworth, Eddy Vessey, Barry Linkletter, and James Connolly.

The society has agreed to order even *more* of the fashionable and oh-so-sought after UPEI Chemistry sweat-shirts. Anyone interested in purchasing one should sign the "intent" form in the Cass Lounge or contact Barry Linkletter or Pauline Cahill.

The first activity day will be coming up on Sat 03 Oct 87. A full day of games / sports is planned and along with a social gathering that afternoon / evening. It is proposed

that the biological oxidation of ethanol be studied in true qualitative fashion. Many dedicated chemmies will undoubtedly try to identify this inebriating reaction.

A tour of the Veterinary College is planned for an upcoming Monday afternoon. Any Chem Society member interested in this tour is asked to sign the proper form in the Cass Lounge or speak to James Connolly. As well, the society is looking into send-

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