

Science Building, Cafeteria Near Completion

by Mike Harrington

The massive second phase of the Horan-O'Donnell Science Building project and the refurbishing of the Student Center Dining Hall have withstood some minor delays and are now nearly 98 percent complete, according to Robert I. Lowman, director of the physical plant.

The second phase of the \$2.5 million Horan-O'Donnell project, virtually a complete restructuring of the building's interior, was funded in part by \$70,000 in grants to the College and by \$250,000 taken from general College allocations for replacements of the physical plant.

The cafeteria work was done solely by Canisius maintenance personnel at an approximate cost of \$130,000. Seven private construction firms were utilized on the Science Building job, with Balling Construction Co. of Tonawanda serving as the general contractor.

Fast approaching deadlines quickly took their hold on the crews as both jobs were in danger of not being completed by their required opening date.

Canisius personnel worked until the early hours of the morning the last week in August to complete the cafeteria. "The problem was that we had no tabletops," Mr. Lowman said. The tops were apparently lost during the shipping process, but were found at a Cheektowaga loading dock just three days before the dinner for freshmen orientees on August 31.

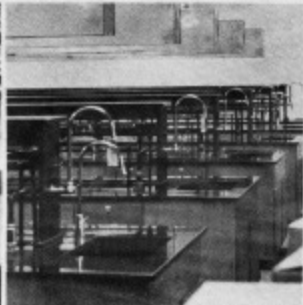
"If you had seen the cafeteria that last week in August, you would have thought that there was no way it was going to be finished," said Dr. Laurence W. Franz, vice president for business and finance and College treasurer.

The job was completed on time because Canisius crews put in the overtime needed to beat the deadline. 729 people attended the dinner and "we even had the ceiling fans in," Lowman said.

The Horan-O'Donnell work entailed a complete revamping of the electrical and plumbing systems, installation of a new fire alarm system, changes in the physical layout of the building and work in the various laboratories. The first phase of the project, which was completed last summer, consisted of solely exterior work. This phase, designed from extensive consultation with physics department chairman Dr. James C. Luffenburger and former chemistry department chairman Dr. Richard E. Stanton.

However, the building was still in a state of disarray as late as the freshmen orientation dinner lab equipment which had been stored for the summer in the Koessler Athletic Center and Bosch Hall had to be moved back into the building, and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors had no floor tiles.

"Getting the tiles in was critical because we had to have a normal, walk-through when school started," Lowman said.



Photos by BOB BOSTETTER and MAN CHIDAMBARAM

As the opening of classes drew close, members of the contracting firm became very concerned about students and staff wandering through the building and began to forcibly evict them from the premises. "They wouldn't even let me walk around the last two days," Franz noted. "Certainly, it is just human nature to get a little testy when something has to be done." Franz also added that for each day the project was late, Balling Construction was fined \$1000.

"We had the usual opening day problems," Mr. Lowman commented. "The faculty offices still had to be arranged, students had room 019 on their schedules when no such rooms exist anymore, some

locks weren't working right, and a few assorted other things, but nothing we couldn't live with for the first day."

Dr. Franz added that the College tried to keep "a tight lid on expenses," and is hopeful of obtaining more grants to further help defray the costs of the project.

He also said that the College was "very happy" with Balling Construction's work on this project as well as other Canisius jobs they have done in the past, including construction of the KAC, the Churchill Academic Tower and renovation of Old Main. Balling was also the general contractor for the construction of St. Vincent De Paul School in 1953. The building is currently Canisius' Main-

Eastwood Facility, as the College purchased it from the Diocese of Buffalo in 1978.

Only "very minor" things remain for the project to be completed, Franz said. These include minor adjustments to the electrical and plumbing systems. Only when the job is totally finished will the College pay Balling Construction in full.

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