

# Plans for new high tech building unveiled

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Floor plans and a scale model of YSU's High Technology Building were unveiled at a luncheon last Friday in Kilcawley Center, promising a brighter future, according to some, for both the University and the city.

University officials, a state senator and architectural representatives seemed to agree that the building would provide the economic stimulant northeast Ohio and western Pennsylvania need.

The \$12 million, four-story building will arise in front of the Wick Avenue parking deck, connect with the pedestrian bridge and span the driveway that leads to the deck.

Construction on the 80,000 square foot facility is to begin early this spring. The building should be in operation by late fall, 1985.

Once in operation, officials say the building will 1) house programs for the education and training of students and personnel in advanced technology; 2) extend technology into new fields and form



Neil D. Humphrey, Frank Watson, Charles Schafer, Harry Meshel and Robert Hanahan display a scale model.

the basis for new industries; and 3) assist in the retraining of many area residents who lost their jobs in the steel mill shutdowns.

Provost Bernard T. Gillis told about 80

area legislators, University officials and newsmen, "We believe that through this High Tech Building we will be enabled to train students how to pick up the new tasks of the future; how to develop these

new products; how to move smoothly in this movement from the industrial to the information society."

The High Technology Building will centralize all the computer facilities YSU uses for administrative and educational purposes. The base computer, Gillis said, could be enhanced and upgraded to suit the expanding needs of the University for the next 10 years. At present, the main computer, which Gillis noted "is rapidly becoming obsolete," is housed in the Computer Center in Tod Hall.

Besides providing for the "new generation of large computers," as Gillis stated, the building would help meet the critical need to expand the following areas: computer science, a program that leads to a bachelor of science degree; computer technology, which offers an associate degree or a bachelor of science in applied science; information/word processing, a part of CAST's secretarial studies program; and an increase in general and computer aided instruction.

Microprocessors and robotics, two areas that are now being introduced in the

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University, would have the opportunity to grow according to the needs of the curricula.

Likewise, the added space would allow development in the areas of computer assisted design/computer aided manufacturing, systems analysis, business gaming and operations research.

Acting YSU President Neil D. Humphrey said rather than hiring new instructors, the programs would use existing faculty members.

Calling YSU "the jewel of our community," State Senator Harry Meshel, D-33rd, said the High Technology Building "is an excellent opportunity for business, and for industry and for government and higher education to work together."

Humphrey praised Meshel's efforts, saying the senator envisioned the structure and actively led the campaign for its funding. In 1981 the Ohio Legislature authorized placing \$12 million for the high tech facility in its Appropriations Bill.

The proposed budget for the facility's site lists construction costs at \$8,048,600; modern moveable equipment and softwares, \$3 million; associate architectural and/or engineering fees, \$563,400; state architect's fees, \$44,000; site survey and tests, \$30,000; and contingency funds, \$314,000.

Meshel said if the tax repeal proposition on Ohio's Nov. 8 ballot passes, "you may just as well scratch this plan and any other future development in any of our universities in the state of Ohio."

Charles W. Schafer, vice president of Hanahan-Strollo & Associates, the firm serving as associate architect, showed just

what the plans for the building are.

Present plans call for six classrooms, one lecture hall seating 100, 13 computerized laboratories, 25 offices and a large student commons area with an atrium on the second floor.

"As you can see, it is not your basic box," Schafer said as he unveiled the scale model of the building.

Its exterior sports Indiana limestone slabs with reflective glass on the fourth level. Schafer said its "character" would reflect the high technology of the 21st Century while forming a compatible relationship with the architecture of nearby buildings, such as Maag Library and the Butler Institute of American Art.

The computer center will cover the entire fourth floor. Schafer stated it would be "extremely secure." Personnel would need a key or control card to gain admittance.

Schafer said the second floor is "where the action is." The main entrance to the building will be here, via a new walkway that will connect with the existing pedestrian bridge over Wick Avenue. Also on this level will be basic laboratories, terminal space, the student commons, classrooms and a reference area.

Schafer said more sophisticated laboratory activities would take place on the third floor. Faculty offices will also be located there.

The parking deck's driveway will "go right through" the first floor of the building, Schafer noted.

Schafer said a number of other sites were considered but the Wick Avenue location presented the most "pluses": no parking spaces will be eliminated; security can be easily maintained; the pedestrian bridge provides easy access to the main campus; and parking is convenient.