

The Busiest Place on Campus

Story by Alix Mitchell

Photographs by Steve Sartori

TO FRESHMEN, the Hildegard and J. Myer Schine Student Center is just another building. With its sleek lines, pyramid-shaped atrium, and high, arched windows, the center fits nicely between the Newhouse School of Public Communications and Bird Library.

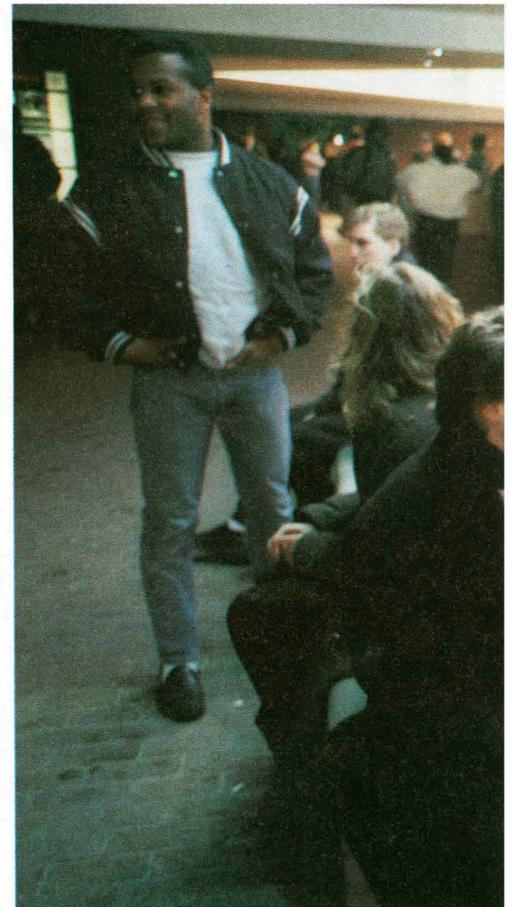
The Schine Center opened last fall, just weeks after the class of '89 arrived on campus. It offers to them—and to the entire campus community—perhaps more services than any other student center. Here is where professors, administrators, and, above all, students come every day. To eat. To study. To shop. To play. To relax. To apply for jobs. To meet with friends. This year's freshmen will never know life without a student center.

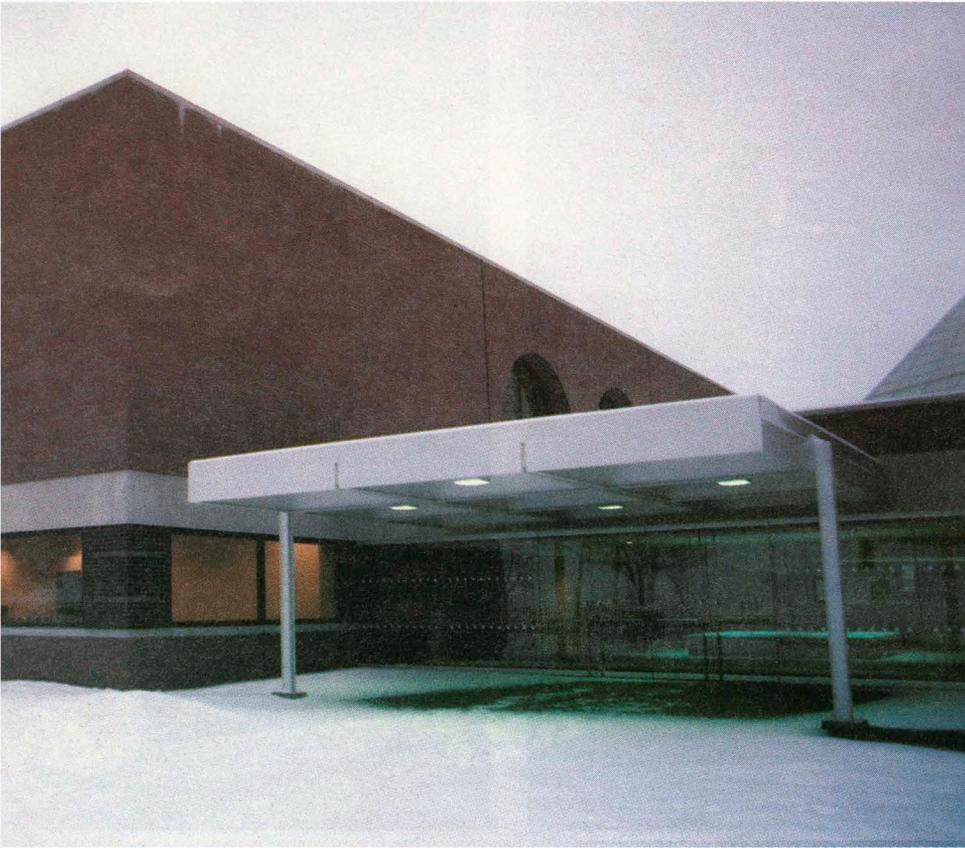
But generations of alumni remember campus life without such a place. They remember debating with friends about where to go for coffee, when and where to meet for study sessions, and whether to buy an album before or after stopping at the Placement Center and the Syracuse University Bookstore. On a cold winter's day, planning the most efficient route could be critical.

Were alumni to return to campus today, they would know that all this has changed. They would see immediately that this new building has altered the rhythms and paths of campus life. Situated at the intersection of University Avenue and University Place, it draws to it a steady stream of humanity. It has become the crossroads of the campus community.

This is the way it was supposed to be. The center rose up out of hundreds of hours of research and planning on the part of students, alumni, teachers, and administrators. The result of that work is a \$15.6-million building whose features include a job placement center, a nightclub, a cafeteria, student organization offices, the Syracuse University Bookstore, and even a quiet place to study.

For the first time in SU's history, students can come to one place for all of this—and more. As its name implied it would, the Schine Student Center has indeed become the center of student life.





IN THE EARLY MORNING, when the campus community is waking, the Schine Student Center seems quiet. But inside, an ongoing, nearly invisible activity is underway. A scattered army of people—from dining staff to student patrollers—is preparing the center for the thousands of students, professors, and University staff members who will surge through its halls. At the center's main entrance, a window washer sleepily polishes the gleaming glass and chrome doors. Come 7 a.m., they will open.



THE CENTER'S LOBBY bustles with activity almost from the time its doors open until they close late at night.

All types of people from across campus bump into each other here, filling the air with greetings thrown over shoulders as they move on to their destinations.

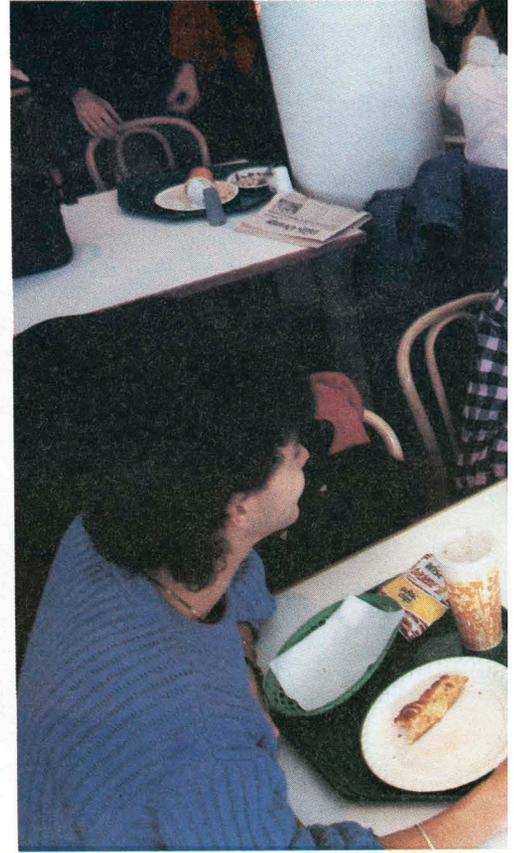
Some stop at the information booth. Central to the lobby, it is a single source for everything from campus phone numbers to the latest *Daily Orange*.

At times the lobby takes on the air of an open market. Here is where student organizations advertise their services and class ring vendors display their wares. One-by-one and in groups, passersby stop to have a look.

FOOD FOR ALL TASTES attracts students from all over campus to Schine Dining. Until now, there has never been a restaurant with such diverse fare so close to main campus.

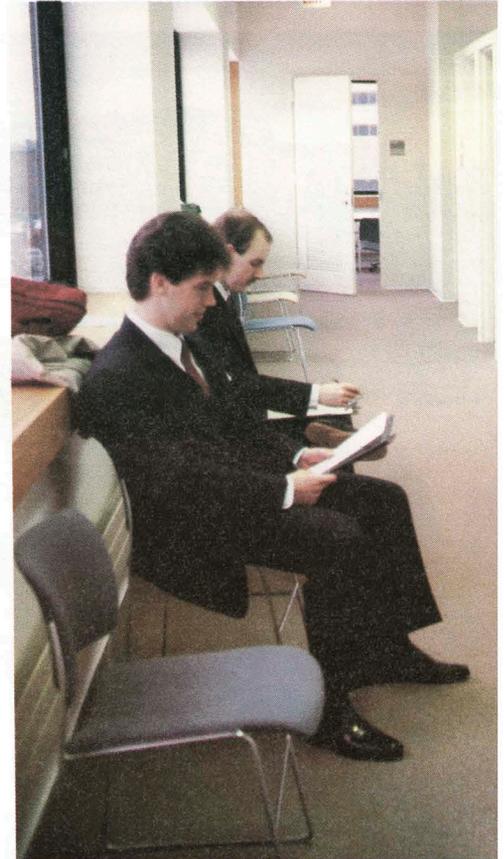
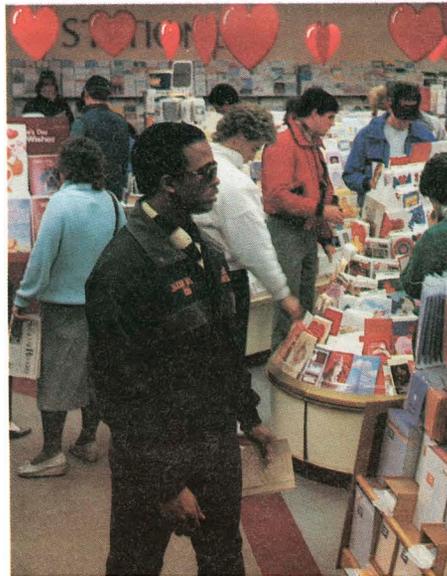
Schine Dining offers a range of items from nine different service stations. "World's Fare" features an international menu ranging from veal cacciatore to tacos; hamburgers, french fries, and Polish franks are available at "The Turning Point." Daily specials at "Plattertudes" range from fresh halibut to cannelloni with mushrooms and broccoli; the "Garden of Eaten" serves up fresh spinach and salads for the diet conscious.

But students flock to Schine Dining as much for the company as for the food. To many, this is the place to meet, whether for coffee in the morning, a midday meal, or dinner. Whatever the time, they gather at Schine Dining to share class notes, make plans for Friday night, or just for the fun of being together.



THE SU BOOKSTORE, redesigned and refurbished, makes up one corner of the center. It still stocks nearly all the necessities of student life: greeting cards and stuffed toys; text and trade books; school, art and photo supplies; cosmetics; clothes; food; and posters. Thanks to the addition of more checkout counters, lines are shorter than ever.

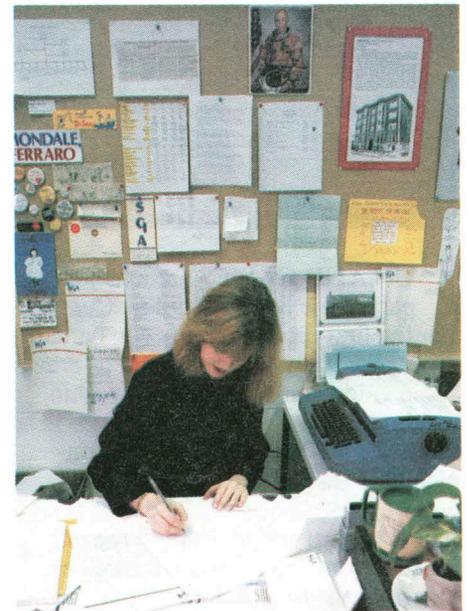
Student-run Spectrum, too, is part of the center. Students come here when they want to go home—discount bus tickets are sold here, as are records, tapes, and video cassettes.





IT'S A PLEASURE TO WORK in the Student Organizations Area. This new office space provides 27 student organizations with modern offices in which to conduct their business. Here, groups as diverse as Asian Students in America Society, the Organization for Disabled Students, SUSKI (the SU ski club), the New York State Public Interest Research Group, and Army ROTC have access to spacious meeting rooms, a graphic arts room, and individual offices.

This office space also brings a number of diverse student organizations, once scattered across campus, together for the first time. Now, just around the corner from each other, these groups confer about campus activities. In addition, each has easy access to the Student Government Association, which is located here.



DRESSED IN THEIR BEST, SU students come to the SU Placement Center in search of their first job. The new office's contemporary design and efficient atmosphere put soon-to-be professionals in a businesslike mood. The new look also draws admiring comments from visiting recruiters, accustomed to working in such surroundings.

The new offices offer more than atmosphere. By moving from 123 College Place, Placement has tripled its office space. The number of resumé and interview workshops alone has doubled to an average of 35 a semester. In addition, each workshop can accommodate 30 students—twice as many as before. A spacious job reference room offers more resources than ever, and a state-of-the-art audiovisual room allows students to tape and review mock interviews. When the big day arrives and students and recruiters meet, small interview rooms provide gracious settings for private meetings.





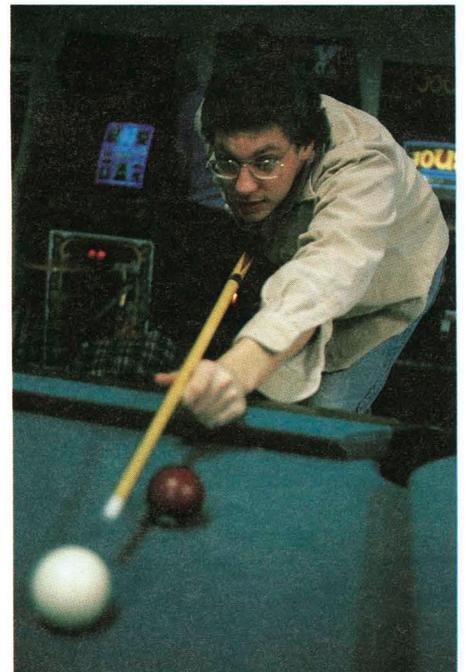
FUN AND GAMES are a major part of the Schine Student Center. For the first time, students can dance, dine, play a few games of pool or break some video game records, all within one building.

The Milky Way, the center's non-alcoholic restaurant and nightclub, features a 300-square-foot dance floor. Its 3,000-watt sound system, fog machine, strobe lights, and mirrored cylinders create one of the best dance experiences near campus. Students use the club for theme events ranging from

a recent rock-and-roll video party to a Kappa Alpha Psi Valentine's Day celebration.

Comedy acts and headliner bands and musicians are also big club attractions. Since it opened, The Milky Way has featured such entertainers as the legendary jazz saxophonist Archie Shepp and Max Weinberg, Bruce Springsteen's drummer.

Just a few feet from this new club is the Schine Center Game Room. Located in the lower level of the center, the game room features six pool tables, two ping-pong tables, and 30 video games. As many as 60 students gather here at one time to perfect their pool technique, while others transfer their concentration to acing the top scores on video games bearing such exotic names as Cheetah, Black Pyramid, and Firepower.





QUIET IS THE RULE at the Pan-asci Lounge. Even when students fill this spacious room, they keep their voices low and speak in lulling whispers.

The lounge, occupying virtually an entire floor, is furnished with dozens of plush couches and chairs, upholstered in muted shades of green, gray, and sand. This soothing space invites students to settle in and visit quietly, read, or simply gaze out of the high, arched windows at the sun setting between Crouse College and Newhouse. Here, more than anywhere else, is evidence that the center has become a second home to students.

At the end of each day, a few lone students remain, stealing a few final hours of study time. Or, oblivious to all else, they sleep.