Construction Strike Forces
Delays, Drastic Revisions
in Planned UR Buildings

By George Newcorn

A twelve-week construction workers' strike has caused various delays in the building of the Chemistry-Biology and Math-Science buildings on the River Campus. In addition, new financial problems have arisen which threaten proposed new building, especially the new hospital addition, the Wilson Commons, and the Psychology building.

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New Laser Energetics Laboratory To Explore Plasma Systems at UR

A Laser Energetics Laboratory—believed to be the first of its kind in any American college or university—has been established at the University of Rochester. Dr. Robert G. Loeve, dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science, has announced.

The multi-disciplinary teaching and research laboratory, which is currently funded at over $250,000 in 1970-71, will be directed by Associate Professor Moshe J. Lubin, a leading authority on laser-produced plasmas, thermonuclear fusion, and other high energy density phenomena.

Among the research projects now under way is Lubin's work with laser-produced plasma and controlled thermonuclear fusion, which may ultimately provide the knowledge needed to solve the problems of how to increase dwindling electrical power supplies without harming the environment.

According to Lubin, one of the "most exciting" projects under way is the application of laser plasma theory to the production of an interstellar source. Lubin notes that "no really good source of low energy x-rays exists in the world."

Equipment in the laboratory includes an ultra-high power megajoule laser system equipped with a disk amplifier. The unit was designed and constructed at the UR in conjunction with the UR Institute of Optics. The system is the only one of its kind in any US college or university and is designed to produce one of the strongest laser pulses in the world. The disk amplifier, which is designed to intensify the beam of the megajoule laser system and produce a pulse capable of creating a plasma with a temperature of 10 to 70 million degrees, is the second such system in the world.

The laboratory is designed to bring together and provide advanced training and research facilities for graduate, postgraduate, and qualified undergraduate students from the basic sciences, engineering and applied sciences.

The New York State Science and Technology Foundation recently awarded $90,000 to the University to start the development of the laboratory. Faculty and student research in the laboratory is supported in part by grants from the National Science Foundation, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, General Electric Company, Union Carbide Corporation and Owens-Illinois.

Speakers Ask For More Pay

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University Tightens Belt As Money Gap Increases

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new the amount last year. Last year the school's operating expenses increased to $107 million, with a deficit of $2 million. This year the expenses are up to $119 million.

Fortunately, individual academic departments have not suffered from budget problems, Dr. Jacob Bigeleisen, chairman of the chemistry department, stated this week that there has been no cutback in his department's budget. There has even been a modest increase. "We have a large enrollment in our courses, but we are doing everything possible to create more space until the Chemistry-Biology building becomes available," Dr. Bigeleisen assured.

The Psychology department also remains sufficiently funded. Dr. Dale McAdam, acting chairman of the psychology department, described the situation: "Of course, one is never completely satisfied, but our department is pretty sound financially. The delay on the new Psychology building does not create problems. Right now the department is spread out and has to be moved to the medical center. Our is not so much a problem of overcrowding, but of chronic unhappiness from being split so wide- open."

Looking towards the mid-1970's, the University is looking for increased aid from New York State and increased federal subsidies for graduate students. A more serious source of revenue and of concern to undergraduates might be the tuition increase scheduled for 1975-76, or the room and board hike, expected to be only one year away.

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