be listed as follows: 1) trical power, 3) stage ooms.
f a building that large or. At least that's the y to say that we can e fact that a building of n can have good

coustics in a structure ight from the concept he rink surface does sential shape of the adjustments of length, determine the nature of ical environment. At rchitects went to the Council (NRC) with the d NRC acoustic experts data into the computer design was reasonable. r factor in the acoustics lding is a consideration ials present within the they will effect various d quality, especially When the building was nents were taken of the e of sound within the e basis of these culations were made as sound absorbing units" equired to bring the to acceptable values. wn, Professor Garland, nts and purposes, the cated a company which ssive devices, which JC. These devices are rical objects hanging of the building and ,000 of them.
the building has the teristics of a low e, and flat response. , and it doesn't sound

nall problem with the the boards causing d on the rink level, but with good sound system

iderations of electrical t can be said that AUC ng that is put in there difficulty. The dressing e for the dual purposes concert dressing rooms which I will mention

For the spectator of an event, the entrances and exits are more than adequate and convenient. These exists are a problem in moving people on and off the floor for a stage event or dinner - but when proper signs are placed and the main stair towers are used as was intended, this problem will be minimized.

I have discussed many of the very positive aspects of the building. Good acoustics, good layout, good sound system, good athletic facilties and most importantly, the fact that nothing was done which prohibits the addition of left-out features like a stage lighting system. There must be some negative features in all of that, and there are indeed. However, they are few in number and do not constitute major blunders.

The ones that stand out in my mind are: 1) the scoreclock is far too small and inadequate. Unless you have 20-20 vision, it not possible to see the scoreclock beyond about 50 feet. Since this information is available in several good textbooks, one can only assume that the clock was chosen without reference to those books. As a solution, more small ones could be added in various locations, or a bigger one could be purchased.

2) The ice-making plant is PROBABLY not adequate for maintaining the ice during the summer months. Eventually, as a solution, one of the two ice-making machines could be increased in size. (one is smaller than the other)

3) The boards are not very strong. It is conceivable that they would fail at a hockey game, and it is likely that they will be strengthened in some way relatively soon.

4) The dressing rooms have a perimeter of ashphalt-like boards on the floor to protect skates from the concrete floor. Skaters will notice that if a player is sitting on the wall bench, they will have to walk on to the floor with their skates to get around that player, defeating the whole purpose of these tiles. Current best practice in rinks of that size is to carpet the dressing rooms with a special single loop pile carpet which will not cut. This is not only cheaper, but the dressing rooms are much more pleasant, and certainly makes them more attractive for use as concert dressing rooms.

5) The "Rink-Tex" covering is very sensitive to staining and burning. There is no doubt in my mind that pubs and even concerts should not occur with such a covering on the ice, yet there is no other choice. "Rink-Tex" is not intended for non-athletic uses, but there will be no choice but to use it. It seems likely that on the long term, it will have to be supplemented with another covering.

So even the problems are relatively minor, and the positive aspects far out-weigh the negative.

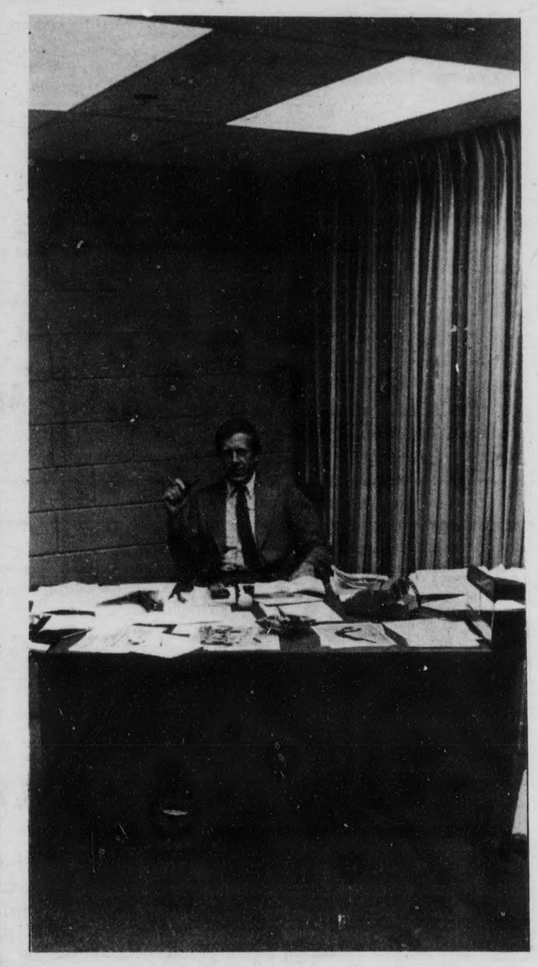
The Aitken Centre has turned out very well. It is, I think noteworthy that it has received more student input than any other building on campus. Even more noteworthy - that input has been listened to and acted upon. There is no doubt in my mind that neither would this be so nor that the building would have turned out so well if it had not been for the determination of the president of UNB, Dr. Anderson to make it the best building possible. It's one thing to ask for help; it's quite another to have student input listened to.

The greatest effort on constructing and getting the building in shape has come from Professor Eric Garland. Were it not for him, we would have ended up with a rink that would be as poor as the rest.

The students owe a great debt of thanks to these two. I also should mention three other people who had a great deal to do with the success of the design. Firstly, from the athletic side of things, Dr. John Meagher has put much effort, and with good success into the design of the facility concerned with sports and sports teaching. Secondly, Mr. Doug Beairsto has put countless hours into the design of the sound system and intercom. Lastly, but by no means least, is the firm of Murray & Murray & Partners, who designed the building.

Next week: Concerts, hockey games, and economics







the Aitken Centre