



MIKE OTTO

## HUB studio a work in progress



KELSEY TANASIUK

Deep beneath the glimmer and neon lights of HUB lies a series of twisted caverns known by few. With many of its rooms guarded by password-cued but otherwise immovable doors, HUB basement is a place seen only by a select group. With the highest of ceilings and white walls known to change colour as the year goes by, it may seem that this is a place of magic, wonderment and secrecy—but I know the deep, dark truth, friends.

These are art studios. A place some that some of your fellow campus creatures will call home for the year, but far from where the general population resides. Certain differences are understandable, for instance the contrast between newly renovated CEB

classrooms and the sinks of HUB 100 covered in centuries' worth of acrylic paints. Other discrepancies, however, are not so easily brushed over.

The classrooms used by the new Art and Design students were badly damaged by water a year or so ago, and this is the first impression that many of the first-years on campus get. Being the optimist I am, I thought the studios for the higher-level classes would be in better condition, but when I started my painting and drawing classes, I had my fragile dreams stomped upon.

Sitting in one of the cavernous rooms on the first day of classes, I found myself transfixed at the sight of the ceiling: brown where it should be cream-colored; broken and water damaged; the tiles in the roof ready to cave in—or at the very least spawn some sort of horrible airborne virus. Although the ceiling was an eyesore, I pushed it out of my mind. After all, it's the ceiling: it can't affect my work at all—unless, of course, it caved in for real.

The surprises just kept on coming, however, as my stay in the cavern

increased. When the time came to claim a plan chest where I could keep my art supplies for the year, the selection was meagre. All the other options had been snapped up and I was left with a drawer high above the others. Now I'm not a midget by any means, but I am shorter than average; add this to the fact that the ladder shakes and my drawer sticks, and I may end up as a skeleton by the end of the year.

To me this is a huge disappointment. Our university's Fine Arts program is fine indeed. The instructors and professors are friendly, helpful and knowledgeable. The art store is conveniently located, and enrolment in the program is high. It's just the facilities that are the problem. It's also understandable that the University wouldn't want to make the art studios the prettiest place on campus, because really, everything is going to get covered in paint.

But on that note, art students are generally pretty easy to please. All we really want a place to proudly hang our work—and not hang our heads in shame.

## I'll take one flu over a cuckoo test

Questionnaire on potential pandemic leaves many questions unanswered



ROBIN PALMER

I'm all for planning ahead. Should a sudden dangerous illness arise, I would love a plan to be in place to remedy the situation. However, there's such a thing as going too far. Case in point: as any student or staff member who checks their University webmail with any regularity knows, the Public Health Response Committee recently released a questionnaire through e-mail that was meant to collect information regarding the potential of a sudden influenza pandemic. But as anyone who actually completed the Influenza Pandemic Questionnaire knows, there's a fine line between collecting information and asking completely bizarre and possibly useless questions.

At first glance, the questionnaire appears fairly reasonable. It begins with questions regarding the age, living conditions and general health of the person being surveyed. The survey then progresses through "General Knowledge," "Health Care Resource Allocation" and, my personal favourite, "Willingness to Volunteer During a Pandemic."

The "General Information" section was fairly bland until question 17, which asked "How likely do you think you may be affected by the following disease or injuries in the next year?" The person being surveyed was then asked to rank several diseases or injuries based on their likelihood of occurring. These diseases or injuries span the distance of "cold" and "annual flu" right through to "heart attack" and "traffic injury." Now, I don't know about everyone else, but I can't exactly predict when I'm going to be struck by a bus.

"General Knowledge," which mainly concerns the flu, asks, "Do you think it is possible to develop a vaccine before we know what strain of influenza is causing the pandemic?" Wait a minute. Vaccinations work by injecting a person with weakened or dead pathogens so that their immune system can produce antibodies to fight off an actual invasion of those pathogens. The fun thing about pathogens is they're unique to each strain of infectious agent. How exactly does the Public Health Response Committee plan on producing these pathogens without knowing the strain of influenza?

Next comes my favourite section, "Willingness to Volunteer During a Pandemic." This seems to be based on the assumption that during a pandemic, health-care centres will be

understaffed. Thus the section is trying to gauge how heavily a response plan should depend on volunteers. But then the "C" word arises: conscription. It asks "... do you think that the government would be justified in requiring people to work?" My answer is sure—if the government officials are volunteering along with me. But possibly the scariest question arises immediately afterwards: "If there was a penalty involved with refusing to provide aid if required, what penalty should the government and/or University be able to impose?" Options range from a fine to jail time to the threat of expulsion from University.

Maybe I'm taking the questionnaire a little too personally. Maybe it will result in a viable plan. I'm hoping however, that more intelligence goes into the pandemic policy than was visible in the questionnaire. I don't generally plan ahead for heart attacks, I don't see how scientists plan on creating a useful vaccination from guesswork and I don't believe in conscription—nor do I believe that the general population will accept these things, either.

In other words, I don't see how the questionnaire will help the University plan a response to an influenza pandemic: the possible answers are either ridiculous or hinge on government policies that will not be released until the pandemic hits.

### GATEWAY OPINION

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Ad guy

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