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North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, "The Register, 1965-11-02" (1965). *NCAT Student Newspapers*. 258.

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COLLEGE BREAKS GROUND FOR UNION

President Receives Million - Dollar Check For Construction Of New Student Center



The Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina was handed a check last Friday, amounting to more than a million dollars, for the construction of its new student union building.

The check, drawn on the account of Hornblower & Weeks-Hemphill, Noyes, a New York City investment firm, was in payment of \$1,040,000 for A&T College bonds which the firm will sell to individuals and institutions throughout the country.

In presentation ceremonies held in the lobby of the North Carolina National Bank, Mr. George G. Jones, branch manager of the Greensboro office of the New York Investment firm, presented the check to Dr. Lewis C. Dowdy, president of the college, and Attorney Robert H. Frazier, chairman of the A&T Trustee Board. The check was then presented to Mr. James W. Poole, senior vice president of the North Carolina National Bank, whose firm will serve as paying agent during construction of the building.

Construction will begin promptly on the building following ground breaking ceremonies today. The ceremonies are to be held on the building site at the rear of the Charles Moore Gymnasium following the annual Founders' Day program to begin at 9:00 A.M.

At the ground-breaking, Mr. Robert E. L. Peterson, architect, will present spades to Dr. L. C. Dowdy, Mr. Howard C. Barnhill, and George Stevens. A "Ground-Breaking" Litany will follow the presentation.

The presentation of the check thus culminates attempts by the Aggie Family to secure a student union facility. Since 1951 such attempts have been active. Whether one believes in the theory of causality, or the dictum that there are a time and a place for everything, he now informed that the long-

sought student union building for A&T College is becoming a reality. The structure, presently referred to as the A&T College Memorial Union Building, will honor all alumni who have lost their lives in combat.

The new union building proposes to be an integral part of the college, serving as a laboratory for citizenship for all segments of the college. The facility may claim the "community center" or core of the college and serve as the "living room" of the college family.

The role or purpose of the union here as on any college campus may be found in this passage taken from literature distributed by the Association of College Unions — International: "The Union is the community center of the college, for all the members of the college family — students, faculty, administration, alumni, and guests. It is not just a building; it is also an organization and a program. Together they represent a well-considered plan for the community life of the college . . . The union serves as a unifying force in the life of the college, cultivating enduring regard for and loyalty to the college."

The first request for funds to construct a student union building on this campus were filed in 1951 by President F. D. Bluford. Since that time the legislature has heard from A&T College on this matter of a student union building for almost each subsequent biennium. The closest Aggies have come to a central student union in the past was Brown Hall which was intended for a union facility. The canteen, the dining hall, the post office, and the bookstore were to be only features of the structure. A shortage of funds, however, depleted the union and provided for only the "features."

The imminent structure was approved in the 1963-65 legislative

session. The bids for the million dollar facility were let in mid November. Savings netted from the bid provided for a more adequate building. Low bids on the structure were \$850,314 plus allowances for fees and \$75,000 for movable equipment, fell below the original allocation of \$1,020,000, but made possible a fully excavated basement which will provide space for a barber shop, a beauty salon, and other facilities.

Although there has been no central student union building, A&T College has for some time maintained a student union program. Murphy, Crosby, Dudley, and more recently Moore Gym, and Brown Hall have been used to house the College's union program. The college has held membership in the Association of College Union — International for at least a year. Finally, the union program will be accentuated with a building specially designed for its purpose, ascension, and perpetuation.

The timely structure is geared to the dire needs of the A&T College family. The gigantic "living room" of the college will encompass a varied array of facilities distributed throughout the triple-floor structure.

The building will be the center of the proposed quadrangle of the North Campus, consisting of the biology building (now under construction), the mathematics building, the agricultural engineering building, and Campbell Hall. The building will face the gym, and it will be located on North Campus between Campbell Hall and the tennis court.

For floor plans of the building, see pages two, three, and four.

Mr. George G. Jones, branch manager Hornblower & Weeks-Hemphill, Noyes, presents a check to Dr. L. C. Dowdy, president of A&T College, in payment of bonds for the construction of the student union building. The check was then turned over to Mr. James W. Poole, senior vice president of NCNB, whose firm will serve as paying agent.

Upon the completion of the Memorial Union Building, A&T College will be able to house in one building an already well-developed union program and a developing organization which will serve as a unifying force in the life of the college, thus cultivating enduring regard for the loyalty to the college.

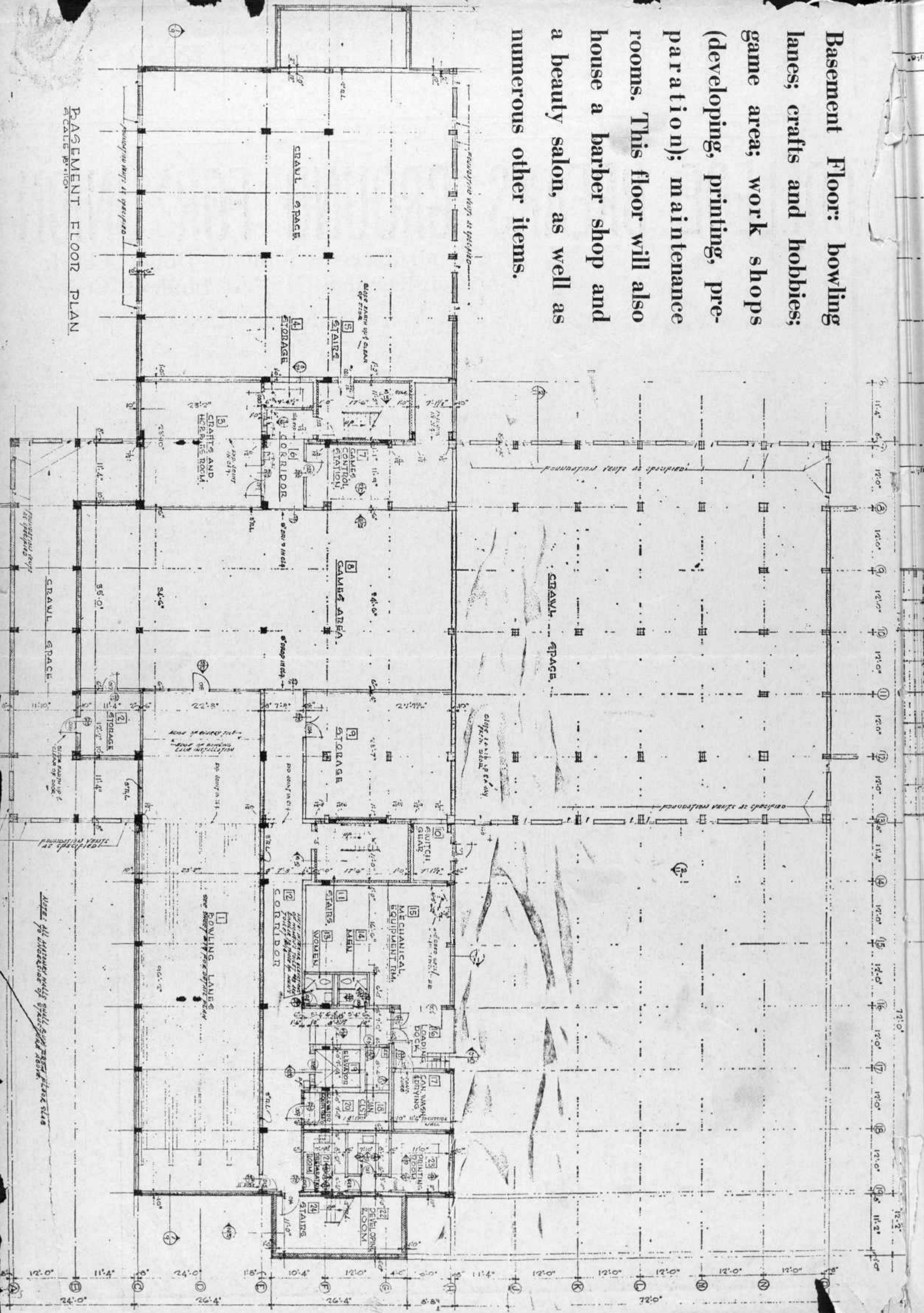
This building culminates the efforts of many years, spanning the Bluford through the Dowdy administrations.



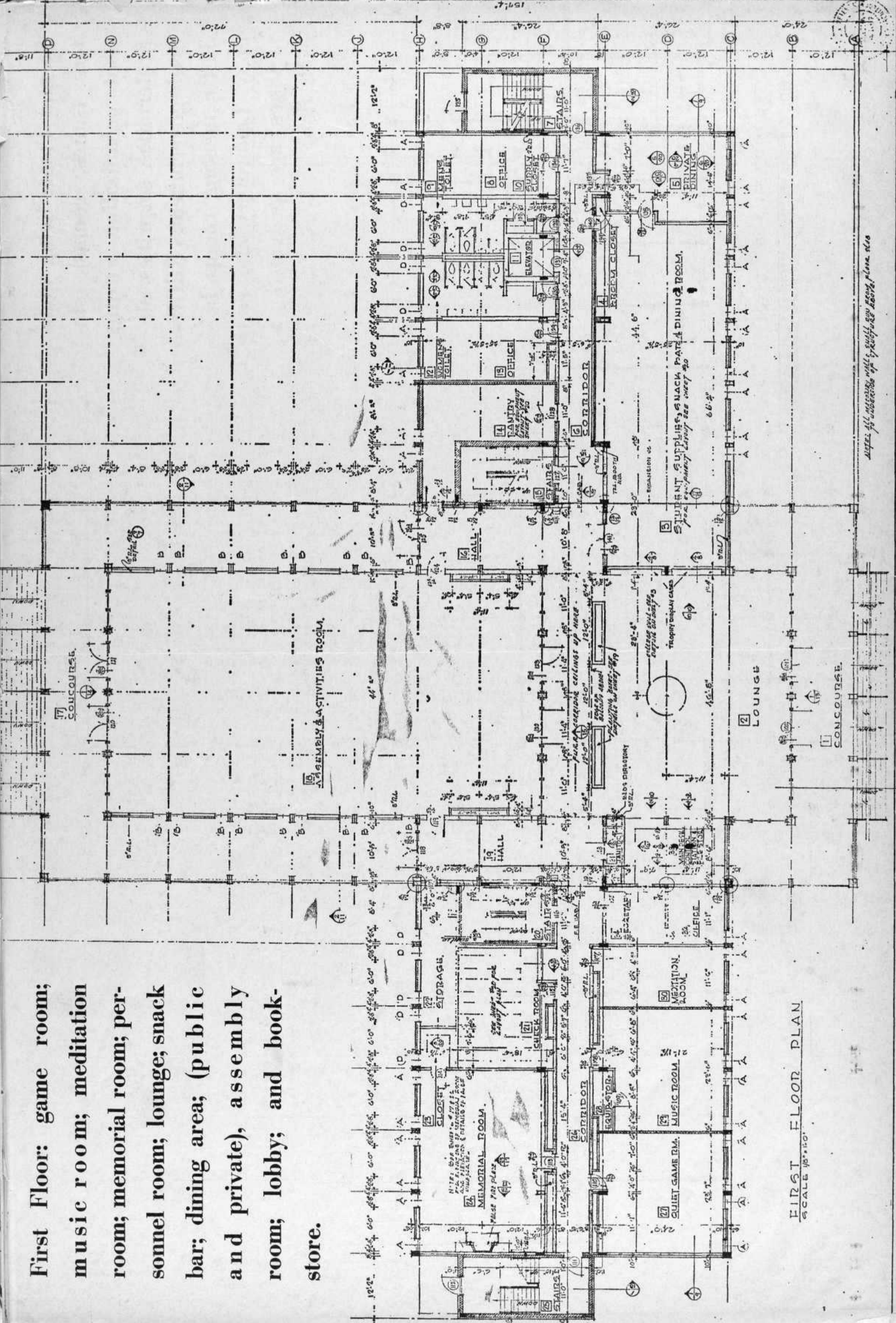
Architect's Presentation Of Million-Dollar Student Center (Robert E. L. Peterson, Architect)

Basement Floor: bowling lanes; crafts and hobbies; game area; work shops (developing, printing, preparation); maintenance rooms. This floor will also house a barber shop and a beauty salon, as well as numerous other items.

BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



First Floor: game room;
 music room; meditation
 room; memorial room; per-
 sonnel room; lounge; snack
 bar; dining area; (public
 and private), assembly
 room; lobby; and book-
 store.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

NOTE: ALL INTERIOR WALLS, SULLY, AND DOOR THRESHOLDS TO BE CONCRETE.

