



Audio-visual media centre acts as education 'library' of tapes, films

In the past two issues of Caserole we have taken a look at two of the lesser-known agencies in the university. This week the pattern is continued with a tour through the Audio-Visual Media Centre of the Faculty of Education.

Unlike the Nuclear Research Centre and the Radiation Lab the Audio-Visual Media Centre is not a research organization. Officially classed as a service organization, the centre performs services with tape and film equipment comparable to that done by a good library with books.

Facilities of the centre are scattered throughout the education building but the headquarters and most of the offices are located in the basement of the east wing. Here there is a counter adjacent to the hall from which qualified persons may request equipment belonging to the centre.

'Qualified persons' generally means education faculty members or graduate students, undergraduate students and student organizations, with faculty approval. Applications are serviced on a priorities basis, for example, graduate student requests may not conflict with faculty projects.

feature
by glenn cheriton
photos
by bob povaschuk

Use of the materials by other faculties is discouraged.

Director of the centre Dr. W. R. Dralle commented on this: "We try as hard as we can to limit our services to the Faculty of Education. We have to protect the program we are committed to in the faculty."

He said the centre is not in a

position to serve the whole campus and therefore encourages total campus development in audio-visual services.

The budget of the centre is in excess of \$100,000 said Dr. Dralle. All of this comes from the university's operating budget since the centre receives no grants from private sources as science research labs do.

In addition to a moderately-well equipped photographic darkroom, the centre has facilities for preparation of instructional materials. One of the ten members of the centre's staff, a graphic artist-photographer, prepares instructional materials for courses. No charge is made for this service unless it is inordinately expensive or time-consuming.

Next to the darkroom is a curriculum laboratory in which materials may be prepared. The most striking feature of the room is the decor, since the cupboards are painted with a random assortment of the brightest colors available. This lab is to be expanded in April, making available 2,500 square feet of lab space adjacent to the centre.

Another lab, an audio-visual classroom, is located just across the hall. Here students are taught methods and techniques in using the equipment. There are ten carrels which may be controlled individually or as a unit in the room plus three screens which slide around the room on a track. Moveable blackboards and pin-up boards are also in the room.

The centre has constructed an equipment storage and maintenance area out of what is usually considered waste space. Pipes lace the ceiling and head-room is scarce.

The centre takes the responsibility of keeping the equipment in working condition.

Dr. Dralle said the centre has 82 tape recorders and 71 projectors "of all sorts", which are all serviced by the maintenance shop. There are 1,300 requests a year for this equipment.

Last year the centre did not have any facilities in the basement. It was located on the second floor then and still has considerable equipment there. Room 240, locat-

ed behind the elevators, is the playback centre for video-tape. That location was chosen because it is the geographic centre of the building. The cable system which connects every room in the building to the video-tape television centre is thus made as short as possible. There are almost two miles of cable in the building.

This room was the domain of closed-circuit television co-ordinator John Philpot and he explained the operation of the equipment. The centre has two video-tape recorders, worth \$8-10,000 apiece. They were originally in a commercial studio, he said.

One of the larger pieces of equipment is called telecine (rhymes with mini). This is a device which inserts slides or other material into a film or TV program, as when the name of the person speaking is to appear on the screen along with the image.

"We have 180 hours of video-tape, of which 150 hours are com-

IT'S PRECISE WORK—Two audio-visual centre men at work. B. S. P. Bayer (left) monitors a classroom scene, while Laurier LeClair (below) adjusts some of the A-V centre's expensive equipment. The ten member staff handles all the audio-visual work for the education faculty.



mitted," said Mr. Philpot. 180 hours represents more than 300 separate recorded segments.

The television studio of the centre is located on the first floor in the west wing just off the main rotunda. The studio is quite professional-looking with two television cameras, hollywood-type studio lights and a telecine arrangement.

Students may use the studio to make presentations. Other students and the student making the presentation may later see the program on TV and make criticisms.

The studio is also used for courses in television program directing and production, and for recording of demonstrations and lectures.

Another facility of the A-V centre is that classroom periods in schools throughout the city may

be monitored with TV cameras. Three cameras are used, two being mounted above the class and one in the rear. The cameras are completely remote-controlled from a truck outside so none of the technicians are in the class.

The truck is a modified three-ton Ford containing equipment for video-taping the pictures taken in the class. The roof is reinforced to support a television camera which can be placed on top.

There was a dead mosquito behind the screen of one of the TV monitors in the truck. Mr. Philpot said this was because they had trouble with the pests one summer. Water collected in the air conditioner from condensation. The mosquitoes bred in the water and when they entered the truck one day, the place was swarming with tiny bugs.

Did someone make a little booboo?

By RONALD YAKIMCHUK

Now don't get me wrong, it's not that this is the worst place in the world; as a matter of fact it is about par for the course; but there are a few things wrong.

Definitely.

Why was the SUB built so far from Tory, where I take all my lectures? Just think, five and a half minutes times twice a day times five days a week times about thirty weeks a year makes twenty seven and one half hours of this term spent walking from SUB to class. You can spend less time on a course and get a credit for it to boot.

The engineering building should have been faced with slate so that a different obscenity could be written on it each day with chalk.

It is no wonder that old professors are dull and boring. The young ones are bright and eager and stop every ten minutes to ask for questions, but when fifty faces stare back as if to say, "Let's get on with the show, we'll talk when the exam comes," the prof gets old and dull in a hurry. Dull profs are a direct result of dull students. If the class doesn't care, why should the professor?

On Feb. 2, 1968, my roommate skipped his first class in two years. On the fifth, he skipped his second, third and fourth. This guy has got it all wrong. If one doesn't miss the occasional lecture, the professor begins to get arrogant and complacent. He assumes you have absolute faith and confidence in him, and that is bad.

If campus planning wants to give us a neat surprise this fall, they could build a sidewalk from SUB, across the quad, to Cameron. That should not take them more than four months, and we wouldn't be there to walk in the wet cement.

I almost was run over by a car in front of the Tuck shop today. In my opinion, there is only one thing wrong with the parking situation on campus: it exists.

If I were university president for a day, I would ban all parking within a one-block radius of campus. This would force many people into taking the bus to class, it is true. But if more people took the bus, the service would be improved. It would also mean a lot less carbon monoxide released into the air and then I would not have to worry about getting lung cancer or something.