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MEETA makes education fun

by Satya Das

Mention educational TV to the average viewer and he'll immediately conjure up images of bored schoolchildren sitting in front of a television screen. Television North (MEETA) is a far cry from the usual misconceptions people have about educational programming.

At a recent preview of their fall programming, Television North came up with an impressive lineup for the fall season.

MEETA is now known as Television North because it is part of the Alberta Educational Communications Corporation, which incorporates MEETA, its Calgary counterpart CARET, and radio station CKUA. The corporation operates under a grant from the provincial government. The AECC is attempting to set up a province-wide educational tv service by buying broadcast time on local stations as well as providing educational service on cablevision in Edmonton and TV Calgary.

MEETA previously operated on CBC's French language

service, CBXFT, on a three-year contract, which expired last June. They are now on cable channel 13.

The highlight of Television North's programming is a 15-hour, 21-episode series of Leo Tolstoy's classic *War and Peace*, produced by the British Broadcasting Corporation. This series will be aired every Monday night starting Oct. 1 and repeated on Thursday night.

Most TV North programs are broadcast twice a week to provide viewers who may have missed a program the first time or want to see it again.

Also in the general audience category is an excellent series entitled 'World in your Kitchen', a series featuring the culinary arts of 13 different countries.

A five-part series, 'Family of Man', examines five different cultures and compares their different aspects.

Other programs include in depth series on football, including offensive and defensive strategy, rules and referees, and the history of the game.

Debate is a series for high school students to develop their abilities in communication.

A six-part serial of Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice' is slated for January, with the month of December highlighted by programs on Somerset Maugham, Sean O'Casey.

CHINA: VIOLENT WORLD' examines the world's largest country at a time when the 'cold war' is thawing out.

By the few examples presented here, you can see that Edmonton's educational service has something for everyone.

The educational service should be stressed, however, as this includes many fine programs such as 'polka dot door', a BBC program for preschoolers which has been adapted for Canadians, and 'explorations in Shakespeare', which examines several Shakespearean plays.

TV North has the most complete library of educational videotapes in Canada, and acts as a province-wide distributor of education TV materials.

The AECC hopes to have an educational TV network reaching the entire province within the next decade. Meanwhile, they have to buy program time on local stations to broadcast their service.

Residents seek crosswalk

Since the beginning of the fall term there have been two serious accidents involving U of A students using the crosswalks on 87th Avenue.

Jack Redekop, the Lister complex co-ordinator, sent copies of the letter and diagram shown below to the mayor and city council of Edmonton.

"I feel it necessary to bring to your attention a matter of utmost concern. Within the

Advanced education starts meetings

The Department of Advanced Education has begun a series of meetings that will provide groups an opportunity to discuss higher education with department officials.

On Oct. 1, the Graduate Students' Association from the University of Alberta, the Board of Governors of Grande Prairie Regional College and officials from Lethbridge Community College presented written submissions.

Subsequent 'conference days' will be held Oct. 29, Nov. 26, Dec. 10, Feb. 4 and 25, April 22, May 20 and June 17.

Interested persons can arrange to meet with Jim Foster, minister of advanced education, by first contacting the bureau of public affairs, and then sending in advance of the meeting, written submissions outlining their areas of concern.

Submissions should be sent to Peter Jenner, special assistant to the minister of advanced education, 425 Legislative Building.

University to open downtown office

Consistent with its plan to better inform the public of its activities, the University of Alberta has secured space for a display window in the new Edmonton Centre project.

The University has received a "firm commitment" from the project to have a four-by-20 foot display along the pedestrian mall. Departments will have access to the display with minor costs being born by their budgets.

last week two accidents have occurred at the pedestrian crosswalk located on 87th Avenue between 116th and 117th Street, across from the Jubilee Auditorium. This brings to total five pedestrian accidents at this crosswalk in the last two years. As well there have been innumerable reports of "near accidents."

"The reasons cited for the occurrence of these accidents is improper identification and location of the crosswalk. Of the two crosswalks that exist between the lights on that particular block, it is estimated that they are crossed at least 14,000 times in one day. The 1800 Lister Complex residence students, and students parking their cars in the 1700 stall Jubilee parking lot use these crosswalks. Yet neither crosswalk has any type of flashing light.

"The University Planning Department and the Lister Hall Students' Association has continually appealed and petitioned the City Traffic

Department concerning the matter, but has met with no success. Enclosed is our most recent proposal to the Traffic Dept., showing a description of the crosswalk.

"The students KNOW that such a crosswalk is needed on 87th Avenue and feel that the alternative solutions that they have proposed are sensible and rationalistic. They have proceeded through the proper channels for years without results. With reports of the last two accidents they are now on the verge of public demonstration. I am appealing to you then, to attempt to rectify the situation, before such a demonstration occurs.

The proposal is:

- 1) The two existing crosswalks be removed.
- 2) The proposed crosswalk, just west of the entrance to the Jubilee Auditorium parking lot be installed with flashing amber lights."

Community groups studied

The University Department of Extension is offering a ten-week evening course in improving the effectiveness of community groups beginning Oct. 11.

This course has been designed for leaders and members of community leagues, home and school associations, community action groups, lay boards, service clubs, and other similar volunteer community groups who want to increase their understanding of the interpersonal forces and strains

that develop when people work together to make decisions affecting them all.

Richard Glade, Assistant Professor of Recreation Administration, University of Alberta, will conduct the course which will deal with decision making and problem solving in a group, creating and maintaining group member motivation and commitment, power and influence, leadership, and assessing group performance. The emphasis will be placed on the examination of theoretical materials as well as the development of practical group skills and insights.

Mr. Glade is a specialist in group dynamics and group work. He holds degrees in social work and community development and has worked as a community worker. Currently he is acting as a training consultant in educational and organizational development programs for community groups.

Registrations are now being accepted for this course at the Department of Extension, 82nd Avenue and 112th Street. The fee is \$45. The registration deadline is Oct. 4. Additional information may be obtained by calling 432-3035 daytimes or 432-3116 evenings.

It is also discussing the possibility of using the large courtyard for live theatrical performances and art displays.

Bill Thorsell, executive assistant to the chancellor, said that the university has tried for years to open a downtown office.

Thorsell said the only requirement is that the display be of good graphic quality.

Edmonton Centre will open in April.