

**Emergency Services  
Centre - 3333**

# University

## Stargazing Wednesday evenings Metro citizens flock to Petrie observatory

The sky is up there and people want to see it.

This fact became overcrowdingly clear during the past few months as thousands of Metro residents made the northern trek to York's twin astronomical observatories in the Petrie Science Building.

For the second year, the Faculty of Science opened its doors for public stargazing on Wednesday evenings through the summer and fall and the observatory has drawn crowds of up to 200 enthusiastic sky-watchers.

Astronomer and Associate Professor of physics at York, Dr. K.A. Innanen, said this week he was "overjoyed" with the response which was "almost more than we could handle".

### Approach of Mars

"We had a favorable opposition of the planet Mars this year (it happens every 17 years when the planet makes its closest approach to Earth) and for some reason almost every Wednesday was unbelievably

clear," he said. "That combined with free radio and newspaper notices about the observatory probably generated the response."

In the winter of 1969, two reflecting telescopes manufactured by Competition Associates of Boston were installed in the Petrie domes.

Using mirrors rather than lenses to gather the distant light and bring it into focus, the smaller of the telescopes has a 12-inch primary mirror. The larger instrument, weighing more than five tons, has a

primary mirror 24 inches in diameter.

Because these mirrors are ultra-sensitive to local vibrations, the domes at York have been rigidly mounted on a symmetric array of concrete pillars deeply embedded in the ground and the passageway connecting the observatories to the Petrie Science Building has been vibrationally isolated from the dome columns.

### Planetarium needed

Innanen said the telescopes compare favorably in terms of quality with those at other Canadian universities, but that York "badly needed a teaching planetarium". Plans exist for one but there is at present no set date for its construction.

This year, he said there are close to 500 arts freshmen enrolled in the two Natural Science electives dealing with astronomy and the present observatory can only comfortably handle 20-odd students at one time. A teaching planetarium could accommodate roughly 75.

In addition to the arts students, Innanen said there are 15 science undergraduates studying astrophysics and two graduate students preparing master's theses based on research done with the 24-inch telescope.

He indicated there would be little value for York to obtain a telescope of larger size than the ones now installed at Petrie, since those more than 24 inches in diameter are "used almost exclusively for research."

"And near large urban areas such as Toronto, lighting conditions are usually not sufficiently good for top rank research."

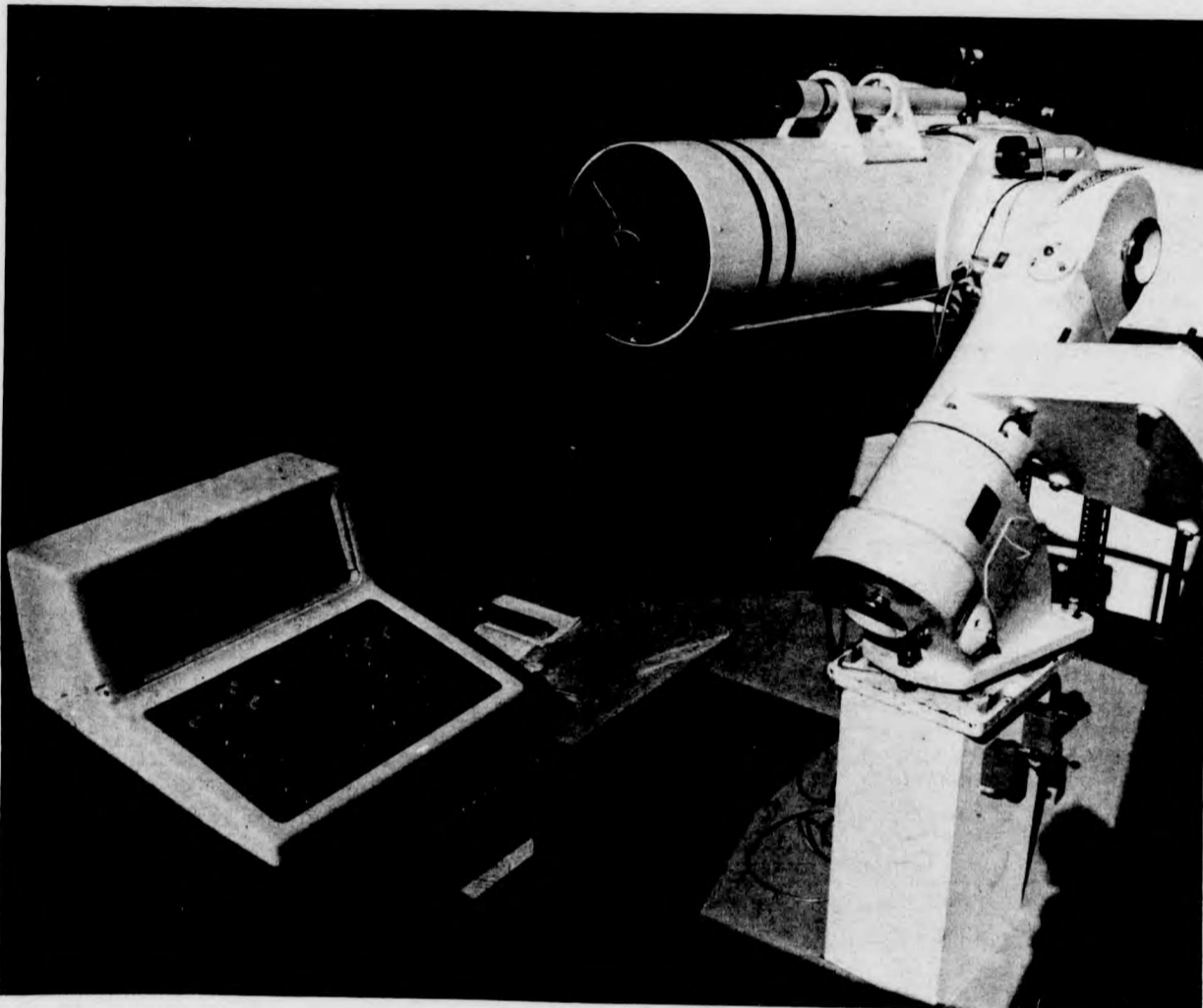
### Last day Oct. 27

The observatory will remain open to the public and members of the York community for another three Wednesdays, from roughly 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. with the last stargazing October 27.

After that the faculty members feel the astronomers' lot becomes too unpleasant for the public-at-large since the domes are, of necessity, unheated.

Innanen explained that there would be serious image distortion resulting from warm air billowing out of the domes if they were heated and as temperatures drop with the approach of winter, astronomers don their martyrs' caps along with coats and boots before entering the observatory.

As an old stargazer's joke goes: "It's only fun between April fools' day and Hallowe'en."



The small reflecting telescope above is used by undergraduates for visual observation and photography. One of two in the Petrie ob-

servatories, it has been used each Wednesday since last spring by members of the public for stargazing.

## Odds & Sodds

### WUS seminar in Peru

The World University Service of Canada announces that the Twenty-second International Seminar will be held in Peru during the summer of 1972 with the theme Peru in the 70's. Applications from York students for places on the Seminar are invited. For further information please contact WUSC National Office, 328 Adelaide Street West, Toronto 2B (416) 363-3481.

### Escalator follies

The Safety Officer of the Department of Safety and Security Services advises that a recent accident has indicated the need for persons wearing open type footwear to exercise special care when using the escalators in the Central Library Building. Such footwear does not provide adequate protection for the front part of the foot and serious or painful injuries could result should the toe-piece or part of the strapping become caught between the ribs and slots of the moving stair treads.

The Safety Officer also advises that the utmost care should be taken by wearers of long scarves and dresses, which tend to trail on the moving stairs representing a serious threat to the safety of the wearers.

### Ceramics club

Potters old and new are invited to

join the Ceramics Club, located in Room 103, Vanier Residence. New members should come any Tuesday evening between 7 and 9 p.m. or phone 635-3852 for further information.

### Pool hours extended

The Recreational Swim hours in the Tait McKenzie Pool are extended at noon hour each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. This change is scheduled immediately and will be in effect until November 15, 1971.

Changes will be announced in the Daily Bulletin and will be reflected in the schedules posted in the Tait McKenzie Building.

### DUA expands role

As of October 1, the Ontario Department of University Affairs has become the Department of Colleges and Universities under Bill 98, The Department of Colleges and Universities Act, 1971. Under the Act, the new Department will be responsible for all publicly supported post-secondary education in Ontario, including the 20 colleges of applied arts and technology, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, the provincially assisted universities and related cultural institutions. The address of the new Department is: Department of Colleges and

Universities, Mowat Block, Queen's Park, Toronto 5, Ontario.

### York quarterly

Submissions of creative work for the first issue of the York Quarterly are being solicited from faculty, staff and students. Anyone wishing to contribute, should send completed manuscripts, etc. by October 15 (deadline) c/o Professor A.B.P. Lever, Room 141, Petrie Science Bldg. For further information call Mrs. Lever at 889-6703.

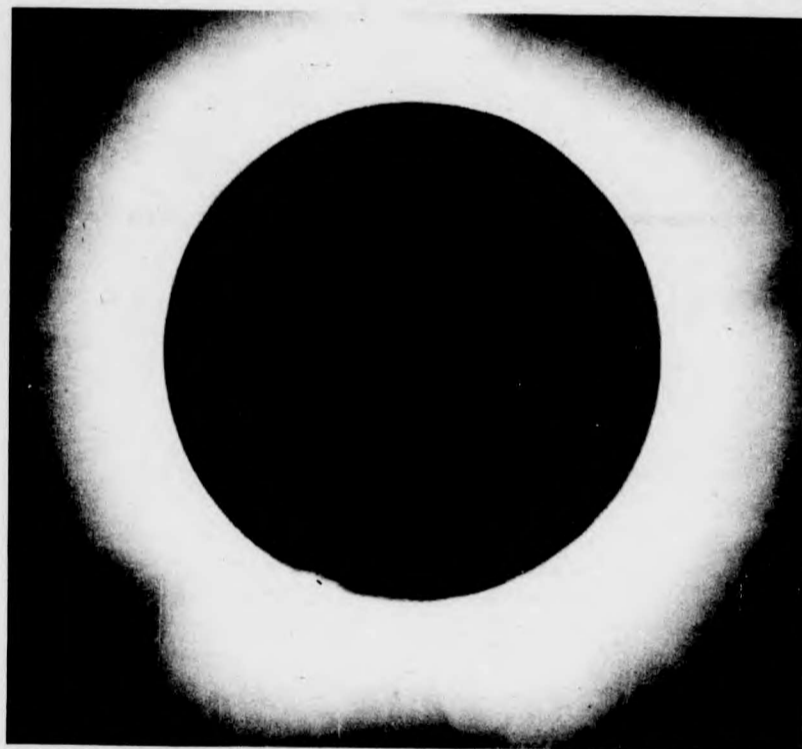
### Public Forum

Women will meet Tuesday at 8 pm at the Unitarian Church, St. Clair and Avenue Rd., to form a provincial Ad Hoc Committee on the status of women. Laura Sabia, chairwoman of the national committee, and several provincial cabinet ministers will discuss implementation of recommendations made by the Royal Commission in their Report on the Status of Women.

### Quote of the week

There is hope for the man who can occasionally make a spontaneous and irrevocable ass of himself.

Peter McArthur, To be taken with salt, 1903.



A total eclipse of the sun photographed in Virginia on March 7, 1970 by York astronomers. Next July, the second last total eclipse that will be seen in North America this century will cover the Gaspé, Prince Edward Island and northern Nova Scotia. York astronomers hope to mount a small expedition to the East Coast for the event.

## Faculty briefs

Professor W. Found, geography, published "A Theoretical Approach to Rural Land-Use Patterns" through The MacMillan Company of Canada and Edward Arnold of Toronto and London. Professor Found's book introduces university undergraduates to theories of rural land-use, and examines their development and relative effectiveness.

Professor P. Mellen, Program in Art, published "Jean Clouet" in September through Phaidon Press in London. Professor Mellen's book provides the first comprehensive study of 16th century artist Jean Clouet, court painter to Francis I.

Professor Sterling Beckwith, Program in Music, appeared on the educational television series "People worth Knowing" on Channel 19, September 29. He discussed the ideas behind York's new Music Program with Professor William Saywell, host of the popular interview series.

Professor Margo Gewurtz, history and humanities, received her Ph.D. from Cornell University, September 1971.

Professor R.H. Haynes, biology, has accepted a four year appointment to the recently formed National Research Council Advisory Committee on Biology.

Professor J.G. Laframboise, physics, CRESS, gave two invited lectures on Langmuir Probes, at the C.A.P. Summer School on Plasma, Banff, May 24 to June 4, 1971, organized by the Plasma Physics Division, Canadian Association of Physicists.