

University News Beat

by Department of Information and Publications

Emergency Services
Centre — 3333

Education Media Lab

Learning to feel comfortable with technology

What the heck's an Education Media Lab?

Well, let me run this film and show you. I just have to thread this film through here and plug this thing in. And after I show you the film, there's this videotape which I gotta show you. Now, if you'll just turn off the lights...

The Educational Media Lab (Room 034; in the basement of Central Square) is jointly run by the Faculty of Education and the Department of Instructional Aids Resources. It's based on a very sound principle: if you know how something works and if you become comfortable with it, you'll make full use of it.

The lab is designed to give potential teachers a chance to familiarize themselves with all kinds of audio/visual equipment. The lab has many examples on hand: tape-recorders (both cassette and reel to reel), super 8 and 16-millimeter film equipment, overhead and opaque projectors, slide projectors, video-recorders, and assorted television equipment.

In our schools today there's lots of

valuable equipment which is being wasted because it's not being used. It's just lying around in storage, collecting dust. And the equipment is valuable in more than simply a monetary sense. All kinds of potential applications are going down the drain.

The rate of use varies from school to school. While one school may make full use of these resources, another school only a few blocks away may hardly go near them.

Some teachers tend to think that if something's fun it isn't work. Others feel that the bringing out of such equipment is too much bother. But lack of use may simply be due to the fact that at a particular school nobody really knows how to run anything.

A few teachers may even feel that audio/visual equipment takes away from the teacher's role, and interferes with the traditional tools of learning, such as books and blackboards.

But audio/visual equipment isn't meant to replace the teacher or the medium of print. It can do things print can't; but more often, it can be used in association with textbooks,

and can enhance the overall learning experience.

Fred Thornhill of DIAR puts it this way, "we want to teach people confidence in the handling of this equipment." John LeBaron of the Faculty of Education reiterates the premise: "If you're familiar with something you're more likely to use it."

The while thing is to get the potential teachers to touch the machinery, to try it out and see what they can do with it. Fred Thornhill adds, "If you break something, well, that's part of the learning experience too."

Another thing about the Media Lab is the way it has brought the two departments together. Without this co-operation the lab could not have been set up. It would have been too

expensive for either to try it on its own.

The Faculty of Education is in its third year of operation, and all Education students are being given a chance to have a class in the lab. The goal this year is to give every Education student a good introduction. Next year it is hoped that actual half-courses can be set up. When classes aren't being held in the lab, any student is free to go down and experiment on his or her own.

In an article published last year John LeBaron wrote, "The average sixth grader watches over thirty hours of television per week. He begins attending to television's moving images before he is two; thus, school is more than three years behind its electronic competitor the

minute the child first walks in the door, and continues to fall further behind as the years go by."

While one of the purposes of the Media Lab is to show teachers how they can integrate media equipment into their classroom presentation, it also has a deeper purpose: to help the teachers understand media.

It's not at all futuristic to envisage the classroom as a miniature studio. Children can and will be taught how to use the video-tape equipment.

In an age where television is so significant, this is most desirable. By making their own tapes, children could learn about both the assets and limitations of television.

Learning to cope with our electronic age is part of what the Media Lab is all about.

Invasion of York set for Monday

About 3,000 North York high school students will be coming to the York campus on Monday. They're coming to attend a Student Information Day, which is being sponsored by York and organized by all the Ontario universities, along with Ryerson. The purpose of the day is to give the high school students a chance to learn something about the different campuses and to find out what they offer.

There will also be representatives from various careers on hand, including journalism, law, architecture, and the business world.

The influx of people may cause a bit of disruption and some confusion. But if everybody keeps calm and collected and doesn't panic, things should work out. It's important to keep in mind that it's only for the one day.

There no doubt will be some

problems with parking. The Parking Office is going to be tolerant and look the other way for most parking offences. The tow trucks will, however, move cars which are parked in fire lanes or reserved spaces (especially spaces reserved for medical permits).

The high school students will mostly be congregating in Curtis Lecture Hall I and in the McLaughlin and Winters Dining Halls.

Those who normally have classes in Lecture Hall I on Mondays should note the following location changes: Social Science 272 and Humanities 180 will meet in Stedman Lecture Hall D and Humanities 174A in Room S167 Ross. History 250 will be cancelled. Natural Science 175A will still meet in I.

The high school students will be attending seminars relating to

various career possibilities. Representatives from the universities and Ryerson will be available throughout the day to discuss questions leading up to graduation, and to let people know which campuses offer which kinds of courses.

This will be the second year York has hosted such an Information Day. In the past, universities have only been able to provide minimal information by sending representatives to the individual schools for a few hours. The Information Day is designed so that the students can get a greater variety of information and more detailed information on which to base their decision.

It might even be advisable for you to bring your lunch on Monday to avoid possible line-ups. And if somebody stops you in front of the drugstore to ask you how to get to the Central Square, be kind.

Winter/summer session '75

The Faculty of Arts has announced that it will again be offering a winter/summer session in 1975.

The winter/summer session is a first year programme. Students who successfully complete it on a full-time basis will be able to enter second year next fall.

The 1975 session will run from January 27th to the end of July. This will permit a 24-week teaching period — the same as the regular fall/winter session.

The courses to be offered are being organized and set up now. All of them will be original courses and not just carbon copies of courses currently being offered. The programme will include both a selection of 100-level courses and some 200-level introductory courses.

It will be the third year for the session. Originally called the Drop-In Programme, it began two years ago. In its first year around ninety

students enrolled in it. During this past year over a hundred and fifty students participated.

Quite a cross-section of people have taken advantage of the programme. A few came directly from Grade XIII. Having completed their credits by January, they wanted to start university right away instead of waiting around for the fall. Others graduated from high school the previous June, but either wanted to do some travelling or had to work to collect funds before coming to university.

The programme has attracted a large number of mature students, and even people from other countries.

Students can attend the session on either a full-time or part-time basis. Application forms are already available from the York Enquiry Service, and should be returned by January 2nd.

Unlimited opportunities if you have some time and a sense of caring

The Volunteer Centre-North York is setting up an information day next Thursday in the Bear Pit in Central Square.

The Volunteer Centre is a referral and recruitment agency for various community groups and social agencies. It's sort of the "Manpower" for volunteerism.

It has files on about a hundred different agencies, including the Addiction Research Foundation, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Pollution Probe, Planned Parenthood, Big Brothers, the Canadian Schizophrenia Foundation and even the Society for Animals in Distress, to name but a few.

The purpose of the day is to give members of the York community a chance to find out what these different agencies do and to find out what opportunities there are in them for volunteer work.

A number of the social agencies the Centre represents will also be setting up displays and handing out information next Thursday: Dellcrest Children's Centre, Bloorview Children's Hospital, North York General Hospital, the Red Cross Society of North York, and the Community Development Division of North York Parks and Recreation.

Although the theme of the day will be volunteerism, the agencies will also be able to offer information and advice on career opportunities in the social services.

Employers these days aren't just looking for people with academic

qualifications — they also want people who have had practical experience. They prefer people who have already shown an interest and taken the time to gain some experience.

The Volunteer Centre tries to direct people to agencies which suit both their personal interests and career aspirations. If a person doesn't have any idea at first of what kind of work he or she would like to do, the Centre tries to offer some suggestions and guidance. People with special skills and training are directed to agencies which can best take advantage of them. This can involve anything from suicide prevention to working with emotionally disturbed children.

The Centre also lists public libraries and such places as Black Creek Pioneer Village. In short, it represents any social agency or service group which depends upon volunteer help. It also acts as a resource centre and a place where people can find out which agencies do what.

The Volunteer Centre-North York is located at 145 Shepherd Avenue East. On Wednesday afternoons it holds interviews near the campus at 1315 Finch Avenue West (Suite 113), between 12 noon and 4:30 p.m. For an appointment or more information, you can call the Centre at 222-2551.



The 1974 Fall Convocation. From left to right, President H. Ian MacDonald, Professor Hans Freudenthal from the Netherlands (who gave the Convocation address), Professor Wladyslaw Orlicz

from Poland, and Chancellor Walter Gordon. The two distinguished mathematicians received Honorary Doctor of Science Degrees.