

U of T Votes \$30,000. Toward Centre

TORONTO (CUP)—University of Toronto's students' council voted recently to contribute \$30,000 towards designing fees for the new \$3 million University Centre.

The architect's fees estimated at \$180,000 will constitute six per cent of the total cost.

The new building will probably consist of a one-storey section with a large central meeting hall. Another eight-storey section will house the smaller offices and meeting rooms, said John Andrews, council architect.

Construction will probably begin next summer, he said.

Educational Television Gets Off To A Faltering Start

by CHRIS BRITTAIN

What is it like to watch a university lecture on television?

To find out for myself I recently sat in on a televised edition of a class in the new nursery building. Predominant in the room were four makeshift TV stands, all holding what appeared to be ordinary television sets. One stand also held a microphone and a small speaker on a separate shelf.

As the room began to fill up, I learned that the lecture was part of a half-year course in Personnel Relations and that it had been pre-recorded on video tape by Professor G. Cormick, the regular lecturer for this course. Technical arrangements for the filming were handled by NB Tel personnel.

It soon became painfully obvious to the class that someone would have to turn the sets on before anything would happen. Professor Cormick and Maher arrived on the scene and after some discussion apparently arrived at the same conclusion as the class for they proceeded to activate the sets. Professor Cormick went so far as to ask the class if they knew what channel the lecture was on. Nobody was sure if he was joking or serious. The class, amused by the general atmosphere of confusion, became jocular and restless. The lecture room began to take on the aura of a men's residence TV lounge during movie matinee time.

By now ten minutes had passed and the "snowstorm" showing on all four screens had become extremely boring.

The professors had given up adjusting the sets and were now toying with the microphone in a last attempt to master the new technology of the classroom. The students counted the minutes ticking away and waited for the announcement that there would be a regular lecture instead of a televised one.

However, just when all seemed lost, the god of television intervened in the form of a disembodied voice coming from the speaker next to the microphone. The voice advised that there was indeed somebody ready to start the video tape back at the "studio" and furthermore, a technician was speeding his way to the nursing building to get things straightened out. Visibly relieved, the professors rushed to the windows to watch for him. The technician turned out to be a sharply dressed NB Tel communications expert. He brushed the two professors aside, flipped some important-looking switches that nobody else had noticed and all of a sudden Professor Cormick's smiling face was staring at us in black and white from four different directions.

And so the lecture began. For the first fifteen minutes everything ran smoothly. I found myself peering just as much attention to the TV set as I normally do to a real-life lecturer. Then the irritations

began to set in. First there was the sound. It came not from the individual television sets but from the small "bull-horn" type speaker on the shelf under the right-hand corner TV set. The tone was very poor and there was a very distinct hum in the background. If you were watching any other set but the one which had the speaker under it, your ears suffered from the separation effect as well.

There was considerable distortion in the picture received although this did not occur until later on in the lecture. The image of the lecturer would suddenly twist out of shape and we would see a man with his head apparently growing out of his left shoulder. This was distracting from the lecture material to say the least. Despite attempts by the technician to correct the distortion, it became worse and finally one set had to be turned off.

I must say at this point that I am not unduly criticizing TV in the classroom, in fact I am all for it. Its potential is amazing. However, I do feel that the new system could have been more carefully checked out before it was used for actual lectures. Sound equipment could be improved simply by using proper speakers. Most important of all, the professors and students should be versed beforehand in the operation of the equipment to avoid unnecessary confusion and make maximum use of this new medium.

Engineers' Queen



Diane Genge, a third year Science student, was chosen Engineering Queen — 1966-67, at the annual Engineering Ball, held Friday, November 25. Miss Genge was crowned by Marilyn Stewart, last year's Queen. She will represent the faculty of Engineering in the Winter Carnival Queen competition to be held in February.

Civil Engineers Guests Of Private Firms

Five fifth-year civil engineering students at the University of New Brunswick saw in practice what they have been learning from lectures and books about various avenues in engineering when they were guests Wednesday of private engineering firms and specialist government departments.

During what was called "Student-Engineer Day", the five students saw aspects of engineering which they had not come into contact with during their summer-time employment.

The participating students and the companies with which they were assigned are as follows: W.S. Cameron with Mussels of Canada Ltd.; T.S. Chu with Maritime Engineering Ltd.; F.L. Goddard with the Structural and Highway Planning section of the provincial government; M.F. Kennedy with the Design Department of the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission and G.S. Wheatley with the provincial architect's office.

The students and their hosts met at a dinner being tendered for them by Mussels of Canada Ltd. on Wednesday, November 23, Professor I.M. Beattie, head of UNB's Civil Engineering Department, was guest speaker.

The special engineer day was held in conjunction with Engineering week at UNB which began Monday, Nov. 21.

Poet and Critic Visits

The noted Canadian-born poet and literary critic A.J.M. Smith was at the University of New Brunswick, November 17 and 18 to present an address and a reading of his poetry.

Professor Smith, who for the last 30 years has been with the English department of Michigan State University in Lansing, spoke on the topic: "The Poetic Process: Of the Making of Poems". The topic was the subject of an article published in the Fifth Annual Centennial Review and delivered in May, 1964.

On Friday evening Professor Smith read several selections of his poetry to a group of graduate English students and faculty members.

Classified

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