

OBSERVATORY THE LATEST UPEI FACULTY

By John O'Brien.

Recently, the UPEI Physics Dept. has begun to add observational facilities atop Memorial Hall, near the centre of the campus. Although the appearance of the tin-skinned dome is somewhat self-explanatory, there are some questions that are still unanswered.

For some time now, students have known that this observatory was being built by the Physics Dept. Professor Wonnacott, of the Physics Dept., has clarified a few points concerning the observatory. Firstly, he made it clear that the observatory is not connected with the planned planetarium that is to be built adjacent to the gymnasium.

By the way, the proposed planetarium is primarily a commercial venture by

a group of entrepreneurs, notably Mr. Heber Jones, formerly of D.B.&J. These men have formed a non-profit group, called THE ABEGWEIT SCIENCE CENTRE, which owns the planetarium equipment. The building, which is to contain the planetarium, will be built by UPEI and rented to the company, which will charge admission to the "shows", be they purely scientific or not. This facility will hold 100 people, and it is expected to have a high entertainment value for the general public, as well as educational benefit for students, who will probably be admitted at reduced rates. (A planetarium, as the name implies, is specifically designed to reproduce the night sky, on the inside of a dome shaped structure.)

However, not to be confused with the proposed planetarium, is the Physics Dept. Observatory. This will be primarily for the use of astronomy students at UPEI, as well as for the use of others, whenever possible. This structure will hold roughly a dozen people. It is ten feet in diameter and has eight foot high walls. It was built above Memorial Hall, on a concrete slab, which insulates the structure from the heat of the building. This is necessary because heat would distort any image, which is seen through air, and would prevent accurate observation.

A 2,200 lb. concrete pedestal was erected on the cement slab and a 14" Celestron telescope will be placed on this pedestal. A stairs will be built, leading from the concrete slab to a

second floor (the observation deck), which will remain separated from the pedestal that supports the telescope. This is to prevent any vibration of the telescope, which will be mounted on the concrete pedestal, which projects upward through a hole in the floor of the observation deck.

Professor Wonnacott hopes that construction on the observatory will be completed by the end of the present semester.

The telescope is designed to automatically follow any star, upon which it has been fixed, across the sky, by moving itself to compensate for the rotation of the earth. This is necessary for photography because time-exposures are usually required.

When asked, "How does a 14 inch Celestron telescope compare to those of other universities in the Maritimes?" Professor Wonnacott said that the telescope at St. Mary's University is only 2 inches greater in diameter (16"), but that there is more to a good telescope than lens size. He said that the UPEI telescope compares well with other telescopes in the Maritimes and that he is pleased with it.

About the location of the observatory, near the lights of Charlottetown and UPEI, Professor Wonnacott said that, although it is a less-than-ideal location, it should work well. The greatest problem with light will be to the south, which is the more interesting half of the sky, however, it would not have been practical to locate the observatory in a more rural setting and then have the problem of transportation. The few advantages would not compensate for the loss of time, convenience, and money.

The observatory will benefit more than students and professors of science. There will also be occasions when other students will be using the facility. It will also prove beneficial to high-school student groups, as well as to the general public, particularly on those occasions when they can be admitted to directly experience its benefits --no charge, of course, to anyone.

COLTS MILD
by OLD PORT
Rum flavoured · Wine dipped

COLTS
by OLD PORT
Rum flavoured · Wine dipped

Rum flavoured.
Wine dipped.

**Crack a pack of Colts
along with the beer.**

THE BYRDS

LET'S GET STARTED. WHERE'S THE ANAESTHETIST?

LOOKING FOR HIS Mallet.

KODERACT @ 1977/78

THE BYRDS

HE THOUGHT THE CLEAN AIR ACT WAS A MOVEMENT TO KEEP PROFANITY OFF THE RADIO.

KODERACT @ 1977/78

funnies