

# Closed Circuit TV to Altoona May Lead to Statewide System

By DOROTHY DRASHER

The advent of closed circuit television from the University to some classrooms at the Altoona campus yesterday marked the possible beginning of a statewide system of such links to other Commonwealth campuses, Leslie P. Greenhill, associate director of the Division of Academic Research and Services, said yesterday.

These TV classes, which originate on the main campus and are being offered to students here, too, will be relayed by microwave and coaxial cable to the Altoona campus, Greenhill said.

During the fall term and next year, the program will be evaluated as to the benefits received, cost input and feasibility of extending the system, Greenhill said.

THE COST per month for the trial year will be approximately \$900. While the system may not pay for itself the first year, if other results of the experiment are promising, then this factor can be overlooked, he said. It is expected that the system will eventually meet its own costs, Greenhill said.

About 80 of the 700 full-time students at Altoona have enrolled for one of the following four TV courses which are being offered via TV to them this fall: music 5, mathematics 41, sociology 1 and accounting 5.

The relay system connections for televising were completed last week in time for the courses to begin, Greenhill said.

He said the televised courses will originate from the TV studios in Sparks and will be sent to the University water tower near the Old Beaver Stadium site via coaxial cable.

The 36 miles to the outskirts

of Altoona will be covered by microwave relay to the WFBG-TV towers located there. The remaining 2 1/2 miles to the Altoona campus will also be covered by microwave relayed from the WFBG-TV towers, he said.

A BOOST in the power of the signal is not the reason for using these towers, Greenhill said. The direction of the microwave signal must be changed slightly to reach the receiving stations at the Altoona campus.

Microwaves can only travel in a straight line and for a distance of approximately 40 miles without being boosted.

If the pilot project proves successful, Greenhill said the closed circuit TV system would probably next be extended to the DuBois campus which is the next nearest Commonwealth campus to the University Park campus, he said.

This could be done by adding a link from Altoona to DuBois

or by a direct link from the main campus, he added.

The Department of Public Instruction in Harrisburg has already proposed a closed circuit TV system to link the state colleges.

When state funds become available for facilities for this operation, the money would probably first go to these state colleges rather than the University, Greenhill said.

THE UNIVERSITY could conceivably cooperate by an interchange of TV classes with the proposed state college TV closed circuit, he said.

The main problem in this situation is that the state colleges operate on the semester plan while the University is on the term system, he said, thus making course planning difficult.

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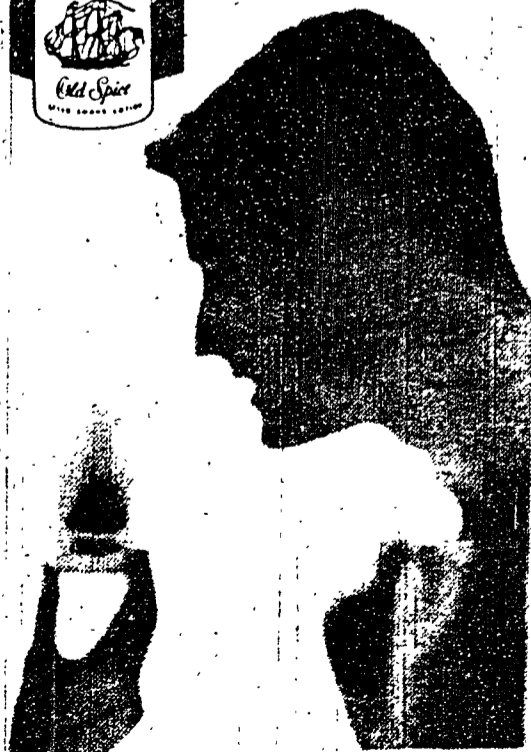
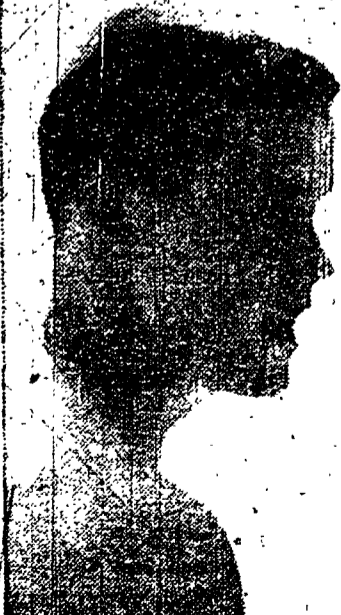
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