

# A PLANETARIUM FOR UPEI

UPEI will be the site of the Abegweit Science Centre which will include initially a geodesic dome to house a 100-seat planetarium theatre, and an adjoining building to include the box office, lobby and administrative offices. When new gymnasium facilities become available on campus, UPEI will provide the A.S.C. with the existing gym facilities, for use as a science museum. The planetarium will be located on the north side of the present gym.

In addition to the regular daily programs the planetarium will offer special showings during holiday periods, such as Christmas and Easter and

will provide year-round educational and entertainment attractions. This being the only major planetarium east of Montreal, the attendance figures for the first year are expected to exceed 50,000.

The financial input by the University is estimated to be \$130,000. This includes the cost of the geodesic dome shelter, \$80,000; administration/entrance building, \$42,000; connecting walkway, \$5,000, and landscaping, \$3,000.

The A.S.C. will provide planetarium equipment, consisting of the projector, a thirty-foot dome,

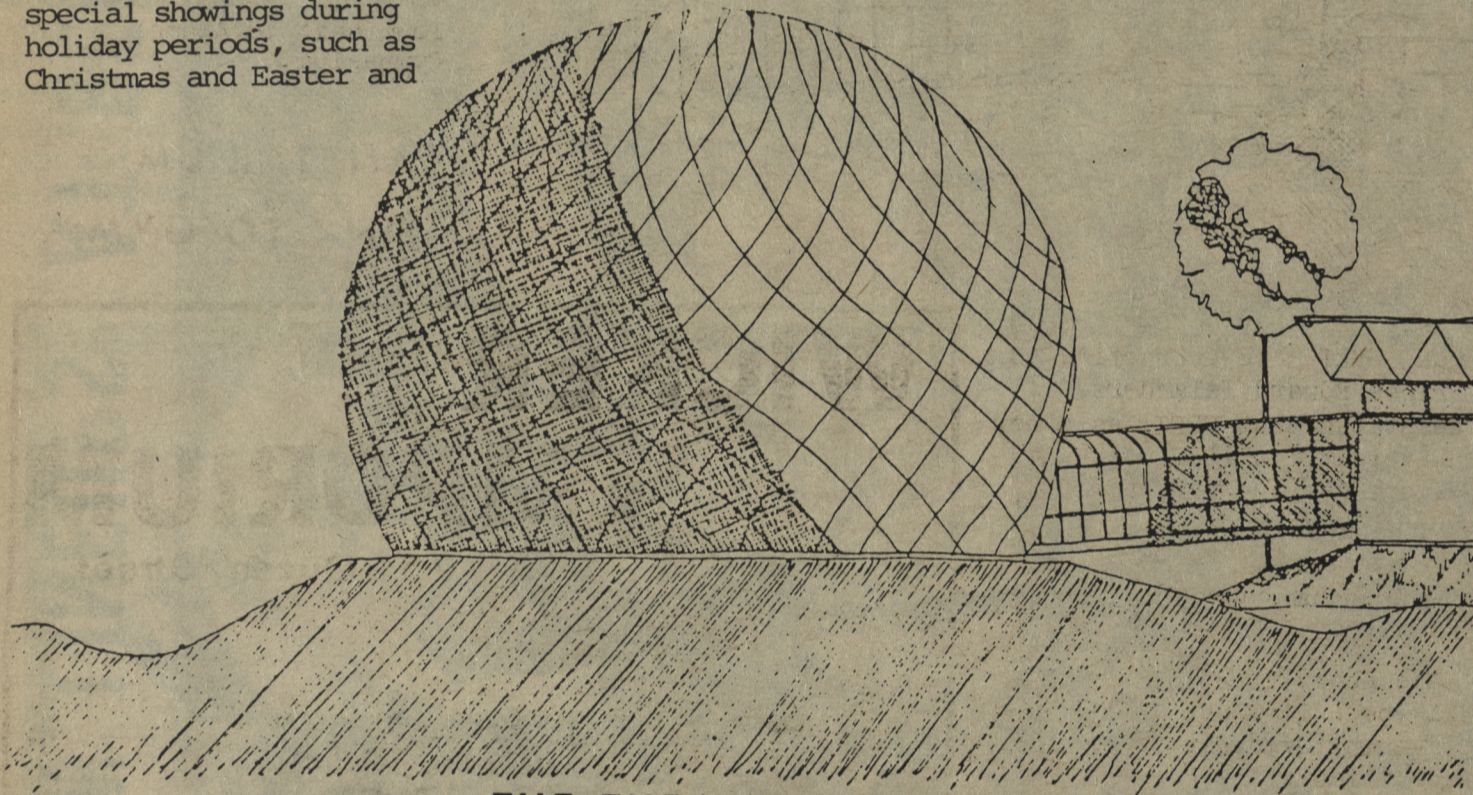
theatre seats, Fisher sound system, and miscellaneous planetarium and astronomical equipment currently valued at \$110,289. The Centre, granted letters patent in January 1979, has since purchased materials and equipment towards the establishment of a planetarium and museum.

A non-profit group, the Centre was organized in October 1978 with Heber Jones of Charlottetown as president; Henry Coia, vice-president; Mrs. Mabel Dumas, treasurer, and Terry Jones, secretary. The four directors are Mrs. Micheline Coia, Larry Dumville, Beverly Dumville

and James Dumas. Mr. Dumas has been instrumental in establishing several astronomical observations dedicated to the teaching of astronomy. He has produced over 25 planetarium shows, which have been used as far away as South America. He will become the curator of the Centre, which, it is hoped, will be open for Summer 1980.

The entrance building will have a lobby/waiting room, ticket sales counter, public washrooms, sales area for scientific books, telescopes, photos, etc.

When the museum is established, it will have a participatory type of facilities where most exhibits and displays of scientific nature can be touched, handled, operated and controlled by the museum-goer.



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