



# New Installations

## **NEW LEARNING CENTER AT DICKINSON COLLEGE**

**Learning:** The acquiring of knowledge or skill.

**Center:** A point around which everything evolves.

The definitions are Webster's. The concepts they represent have been implemented electronically and housed in Dickinson College's Bosler Hall, known on campus as The Learning Center.

Seventy-two recorders, their glowing ready lights giving the small "deck room" the appearance of a 747 cockpit, are at the hub of the system, which extends, via 16 miles of wiring, throughout Bosler and over to the Boyd Lee Spahr Library, a block distant.

Upon the correct signal dialed from any of some 90 "stations," a given machine will activate and begin dispensing material stored in the particular reel of tape mounted on its deck. One-hundred-fifty different programs can be played simultaneously.

The Center, operating since last fall in what had been the old library building, contains two laboratories — One of 24 stations and the other with 54.

A station is a small cubicle with a head set and telephone-type dialing system the student uses to call up the tape he wants. And since you can't follow the game without a scorecard, a large board at the front of each lab lists current offerings. Changes are made weekly based on course requirements.

Several classrooms in Bosler are equipped with loud speakers and a dial system whereby tapes can be played to the class as a whole rather than to an individual student. Additionally, eight student booths in the library are wired to the center in stereo and consideration is being given for installation of similar connections at other college buildings, including dormitories.

The Center's catalog of programs continues to expand, presently having reached the 500 mark. Content ranges from Bach musical selections to the grammar drills of foreign languages.

The system also has a record capability, often used by instructors to permanently chronicle an exceptional lecture which can then be repeated to succeeding classes. A slide presentation accompanying the tape is also possible.

A pleasant Frenchman Prof. Daniel Freval, is director of The Learning Center. Obviously proud of its capabilities, Freval ticked off just a few:

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"We can make a tape from a record, record a lecture, duplicate tapes, either monaural or stereo, make a tape for a test with oral questions, students can record or practice in the labs and put tapes on program machines so students can listen to them at random."

Unlimited possibilities exist for use of the Center. The system has been engineered so that video tape could even be added at some future date.

"For too many years modern languages have been the only ones to use recorders," Freval said. "Dickinson College has taken the right direction in naming its facilities a Learning Center, for in the past year not only the Department of Modern Languages but also the Music Department, the Humanities, the Psychology and the English Departments have taken advantage of its potential and we foresee a wider and more intensive use in coming years."

Truly, the Center, valued at more than \$130,000. has helped Dickinson keep pace with the 20th century and is destined to make teaching methods of the school's third century much different than those of the first two.

The college celebrates its two-hundredth year in 1973.

