

Speakers

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Another problem between the University and the community has been that "people don't know what kind of excellence is here," says Bill Orr, a geology professor who has spoken in the community both about his work with fossils, and his travels in China. For example, when public issues such as land-use planning arise in the community, the University's resources aren't used, Orr says.

"The Speakers Bureau is wonderful," says Ray Hyman, a psychology professor who talks to communi-

ty groups about fake psychics. "It's a chance to show people we don't have horns."

Faculty and staff members have talked free of charge to Rotary and Kiwanis club members, elementary, middle and high-school students, and members of churches and various civic organizations.

"So far, the reaction has been almost exclusively good," he says. "They're appreciative of the new perspective the University has given them."

Elementary-school teacher Paul Bolin said a talk

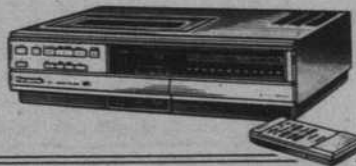
given by biology professor Aaron Novick was "a highlight of my teaching year." Novick, who worked on the 1840s Manhattan Project that developed the atomic bomb, spoke to children about the threat of nuclear war.

Beres envisions a future Speakers Bureau with the added personnel and financial backing to expand its programs, offer speakers a small fee, and compile an annual directory of speakers that could be sent to schools, clubs, and churches throughout the state.

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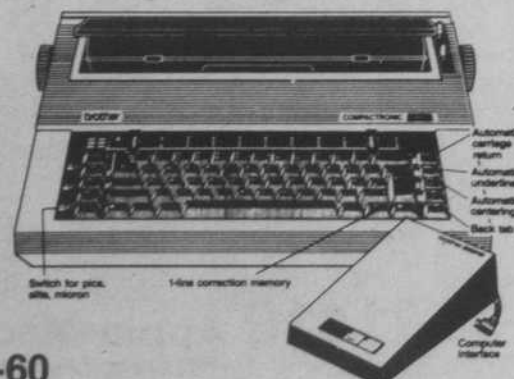
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