

### Parachute Serves as Sky For Budding Astronomers

Giant cargo parachutes figured prominently this week in campus seminars in physics conducted by Jesse Platts of the El Camino College faculty. The chute, suspended from the ceiling of Room 7 of the Physics Building, represented the background of the skies of the western hemisphere. Stars were projected upon the background. For each of the seminars, lectures, 22 star-gazers were seated beneath the huge canopy.

globe in total darkness, the parachute "heavens" overhead reflect exactly the appearance of a night sky in California.

Visitors to the seminar were placed underneath the parachute, where they could identify their favorite constellations and groups of stars. After the seminar visitors were shown the principals of the planetarium and were able to experiment for themselves.

Platts conceived his idea for the seminar experiment from principles utilized at Griffith Planetarium in Los Angeles. He used ultra-violet, blue and red lamps, a projector that flashed sunrises on the heavens and a tiny globe with holes punctured in it signifying stars.



*"Plastic surgeons can do almost anything with a nose, except keep it out of other people's business."*

Over 400 tiny holes set exactly in a ratio as their fixed positions in the heavens are on the globe. When the bright light is turned on inside the

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