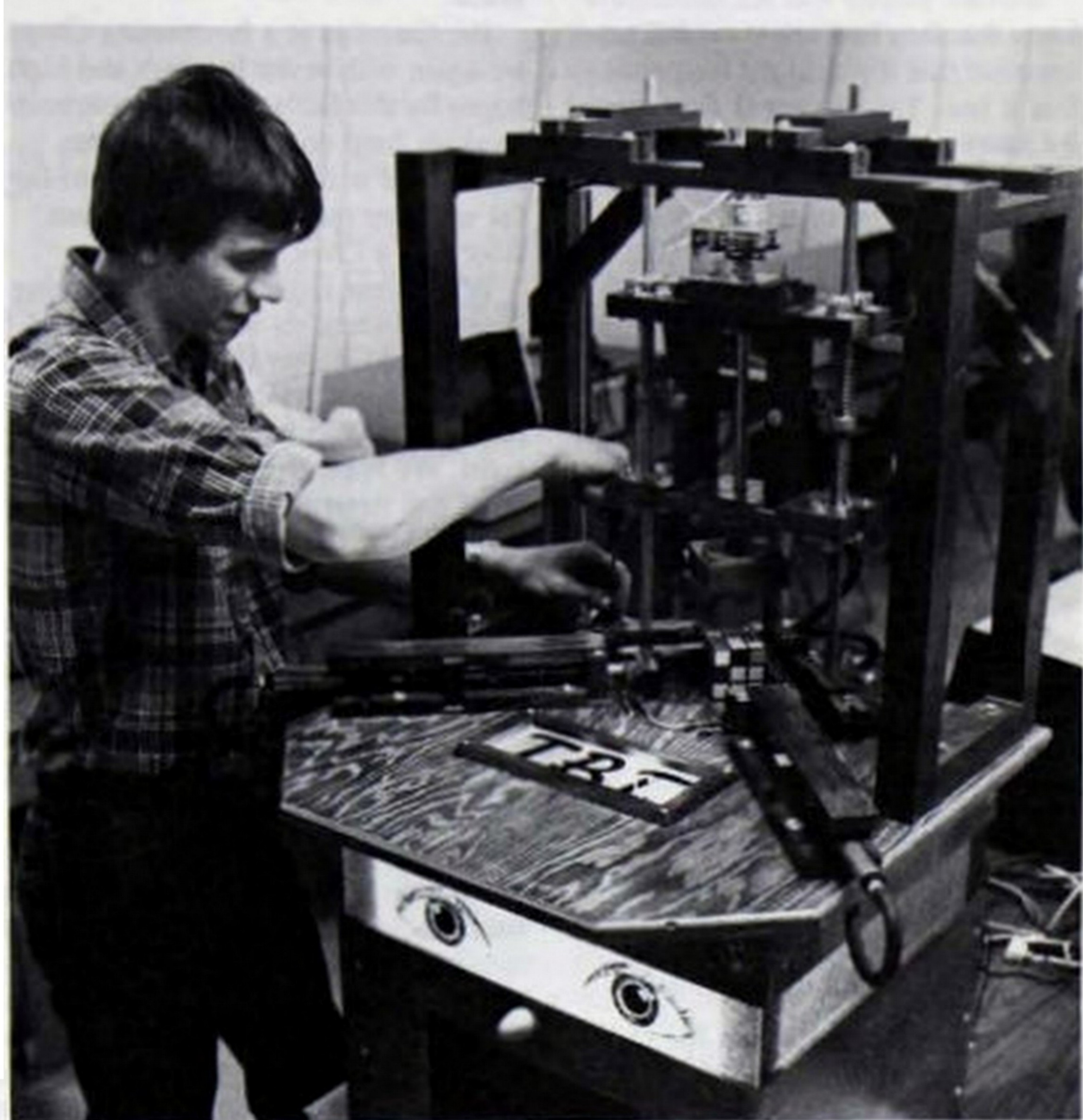


Phi Kappa Brother makes machine

By Carlos Garcia
Phi Kappa

Years ago, Erno Rubik created the Rubik's Cube. It was originally created to teach his students about three dimensional space but ended up teaching millions all over the world about total frustration. Professor Rubik probably didn't anticipate the fame of his creation and would never have dreamed that the cube would one day be conquered by a computerized machine, but Robbie Rubik has been created and has conquered.



Brother Dan Talken, Phi Kappa, with Robbie Rubik.

Robbie Rubik is the name given to the cube solving machine that was created by students at the University of Illinois. The project was sponsored by Tau Beta Pi Engineering Society and was to give some students a chance to have hands-on experience with what they have been learning.

One of the creators of Robbie is Brother Daniel Talken, who is a senior studying mechanical engineering. Talken was responsible for the construction of the mechanics of Robbie and the first presentation.

It took approximately five months from the concept of Robbie to his first presentation. The group had a limited

budget and ended up spending about \$400 in construction.

There are three parts to Robbie: the computer, which are the 'brains' of Robbie, the mechanics and the interface between; the computer and the mechanics. A cube is solved by first typing into the computer the scrambled positions of the faces. Then once the computer knows what the cube 'looks' like, the GO button is pressed and in less than a second the computer knows the solution to that particular cube. Unfortunately, the mechanics are much slower and on the average take about six minutes to crank out a solved cube.