

# Fixed!

By LISA HOGAN

As most UPEI students are aware, the student server has been improved since last semester, to the relief of many. A lot of students at the university had problems with the computers, from mildly annoying to very costly in terms losing entire assignments.

One incident occurred last semester, involving a fourth year student who completed an assignment and later returned to it to find certain parts missing. The next day she was unable to access Word Perfect, and as a result she had to finish her assignment at Holland College.

Another example of computer difficulties involved a student in the education department who, after completing and saving a fairly lengthy document, went to the Kelly building to print it off only to discover that the work had not been saved at all.

Many others have reported problems gaining access to certain programs, unsaved changes, and system sluggishness, among others.

Some students have had difficulties with their e-mail accounts.

"[The system] said the mailbox was too full, although there were only ten messages in there," said Nicole Doucet, a second year science student. "This went on for about two months."

Even though these problems are supposed to be a thing of the past due to the recent changes made by Computer Services, many students have been wondering if there really have been any significant improvements, and if so, what was done to fix the problems. Some are also wondering if this work was just a temporary "quick fix," and how much this cost the university.

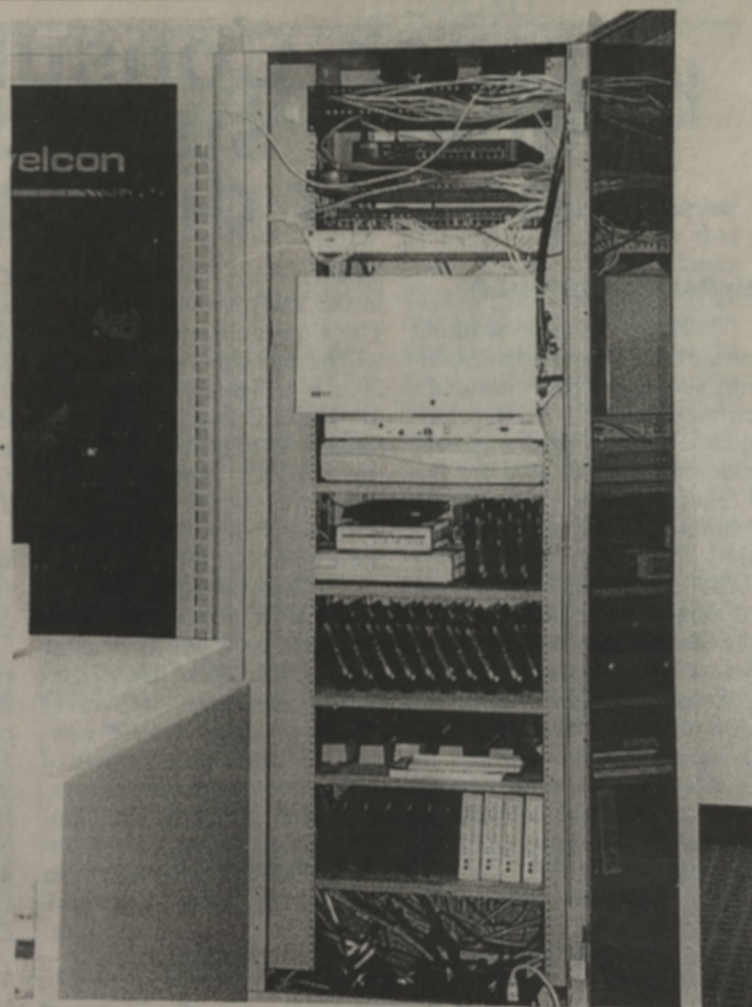
— John Cunningham is the

network administrator at Computer Services. He explained that the problem with the computers last year because the version of the operating system was not current, and that it had been in place for two years until it was upgraded on December 21.

The company that was supporting the university's computer system was prepared to drop their support if the university failed to upgrade their system. As a result, a newer level three version has been instituted, which means that the technology is increased and the computers are now current and up-to-date.

"The computers now have one megabyte instead of 300K, and 2 megabytes on the M drive. The network is more speedy and Y2K compliant, and the stabilization problem is finally fixed," Cunningham

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A new server for the UPEI computer network

-photo by Richard Haines

## UPEI receives approval to award graduate degrees

The University of Prince Edward Island commends the Government of Prince Edward Island for their decision to amend the University Act allowing UPEI to grant earned certificates, diplomas and degrees at all levels including graduate and post-graduate programs and honorary degrees.

"This is very good news and we extend our sincere thanks to the Honourable Chester Gillan, Minister of Education and the Legislative Assembly, should be recognized for their foresight and commitment to the future of higher education in this province," says Dr. Lawrence Heider, Acting President of UPEI. "By sponsoring the

amendment to the act, the Minister has ensured that UPEI will continue as a vital, competitive, top quality learning, teaching and research institution."

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) assessed the capacity of the University to offer graduate programs and then evaluated the effects of such programs on other groups. Their decision to recommend the act be amended was also based on a review of the University by Dr Maurice Yeates, former Director of the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies. Standard practice in the Maritimes requires that each proposed new program be reviewed by

the MPHEC and, in the case of graduate programs, by external experts before it is approved. The University participates fully with MPHEC procedures, following our internal review and approval of programs by the University Senate.

"This is a momentous occasion for the University and the Province of Prince Edward Island because for the first time we will be able to promote the University as a graduate institution," says Honourable Chester Gillan, Minister of Education.

"It is increasingly evident that UPEI needs to offer graduate programs to attract and retain the best faculty, students, and research contracts,"

says Dr. Heider. "UPEI's internal program development procedures and the MPHEC's quality assurance procedures ensure that any proposed programs have academic merit and are consistent with the mission of the University."

Statistics Canada data shows that higher levels of university education are positively correlated with better employment rates, quality of life and higher lifetime earnings. The unemployment rate for Canadians with less than eight years of education is 28.5 per cent; for high school graduates it was 10.8 per cent; for college graduates it was 8.2 per cent; for undergraduates it was 6.3 per cent; and for those with a graduate degree, it was

5.2 per cent. It is anticipated that UPEI will soon be able to offer Islanders the opportunity to obtain higher academic credentials without leaving the province.

Previously, only the Atlantic Veterinary College could offer graduate programs. "The AVC has been very supportive of this legislative change," says Dr. Tim Ogilvie, Acting Dean of the AVC. "We see great potential for on-campus partnerships in research and programming that wouldn't have been possible before."

Graduate students and their families will contribute to the local economy and their

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