

# THE GEM

ARCHIVES  
U.P.E.I.

Volume 6, Number 11

The Student Voice of University of Prince Edward Island

Thursday, November 17, 1988

## Terminal Terror at UPEI

By Jim Macgrath

You have to run all over campus to find a free terminal due to this year's influx of students registered in computer science courses. There are over 400 students registered with class accounts, and there are more than 100 personal accounts. So you could have quite a time trying to find a free terminal.

The VT100 terminals...our most horrible error story. The terminal's that

are located here on campus are old, rundown, and just downright abused. The keyboards don't work, so people smash the keys to make them work. It's a scary sight on a Wednesday night in the Robertson Library terminal room. Students frantically trying to get their assignments done for the next days due date.

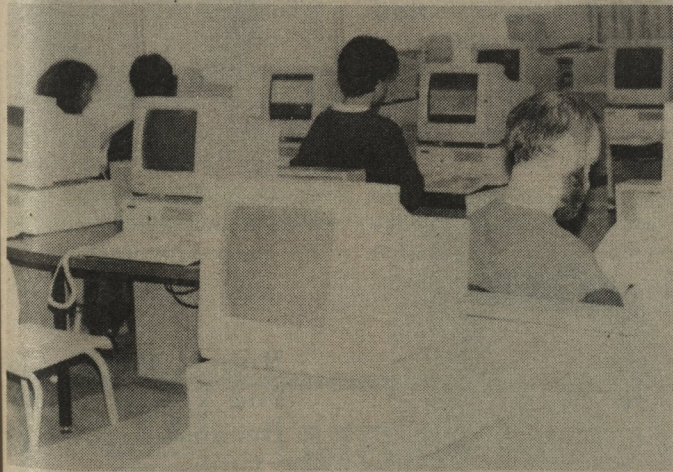
Look, over there on the other side, a keyboard sits mournfully atop the CRT, with a small death

notice tacked to it's face; waiting, hoping that their wonderful technician will soon come and revive it.

Yes, it has been happening all over campus, terminals dying, mostly from just over use of the equipment. These things take a lot of abuse at the hands of everyone from two-fingered sledgehammer typist to frustrated Pascal students.

### 'I have to run all over campus to find a terminal.'

Mr. Hancock would also like students to let the Computer Centre know when and where there are terminals and printers in need of repair on campus. Just send a letter to the CC by Vax Mail to Bruce Ferguson (Computer Centre Technician) at FERGUSON or Scott Cudmore (User Support) at CUDMORE and let him know which terminal it is located.



New Microlab in Kelley which was installed this summer.

### The story behind the rumors —

#### When are we going to get new terminals?

There have been a lot of changes over the summer, and you must be blind if you haven't noticed them. The new Microlab in Kelley was installed over the summer with 24 new Samsung IBM compatibles/clones, by a great staff at the UPEI Computer Centre. The Novell Net-

work, which is a network of PC's, was put in completely by the CC Staff without any help from the company that they were purchased.

Other terminal rooms on campus are in for a drastic change. The terminals in the library are

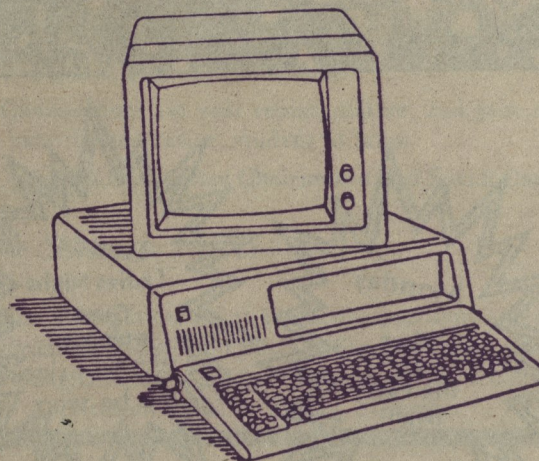
being removed and replaced with the DEC Rainbow's that were taken from the lab in Kelley last semester. That means that there will be more terminals in RL than before. After which the VT100's will be taken and put in the terminal room in Memorial Building for the Math and Computer Science students. The room there isn't going to be taken out, but improved in this way.

And last but not least, Main Building. Yes, there is going to be a terminal room in Main. It will be located in room 153 of the English Annex. The room will be equipped with four Rainbow micro computers, two of which will be connectable to the Vax as terminals while the other two Rainbows will be strictly micro computers.

New terminals will not be installed in the very near future, says Jim Hancock, Director of the Computer Centre. Hancock hopes to eventually replace all of the terminals on campus with a PC net.

This net will be a group of Personal Computers that would

The VT100's on campus are old, they have been around for quite awhile now, and are really starting to show the hard use of the overwhelming number of students using them. If you have been wondering if we are going to be getting new terminals soon, you may have a long wait ahead of you.



function as micros as well as terminals to the mainframe. The net would be much like the Vax-Mates that are located in the Vet College now. But until such time that it can be fit into the Computer Centre budget and installed, the present terminals will be around and should last until then.

Hancock feels that "students are very considerate of equipment" and wishes to thank them for that. Students don't have to be kicked out of the terminal room early in the evening to protect the equipment from vandals and thieves, as other universities are required to do.



A quiet night at the library terminal room. Students working on term papers and computer assignments.