

# Virtual university comes to UPEI

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS

The Information Technology and Education Centre, found in the newly renovated area around the Pit, is not just a new computer lab as many students have thought it to be, but rather a university unto itself.

Next year, two courses will be offered in this lab to students: University 100, which will be called University 101, and Philosophy 111, which will be called simply Logic.

The staff employed to facilitate these courses via computer are for the most part students and are all under 30 years of age.

In the long run, these courses will not be restricted within walls; they will be offered all over the world. A facilitator at UPEI may have students from China, or Australia, conversing over the computer between them. By taking courses via computer, using chat rooms, E-mail, and message boards, students may have their bouts of stage fright lessened, since they are not involved in face-to-face confrontation with other students.

Dale Mattock, an educational designer and business manager for ITEC, hopes that this will link UPEI with Holland College, hospitals, high schools, and libraries, as well as many other institutions where learning is necessary.

Mattock is trying to get people to understand the vir-

tues of a technology in the classroom.

"Technology is a tool, it isn't a god. It does not take away or create jobs; people do that," she said, and adds that she hopes that "every young person will critically think about the repercussions of technology."

Mattock is looking forward to eventually using video and audio conferencing in the classrooms as well.

But this lab will not just be restricted to classroom use.

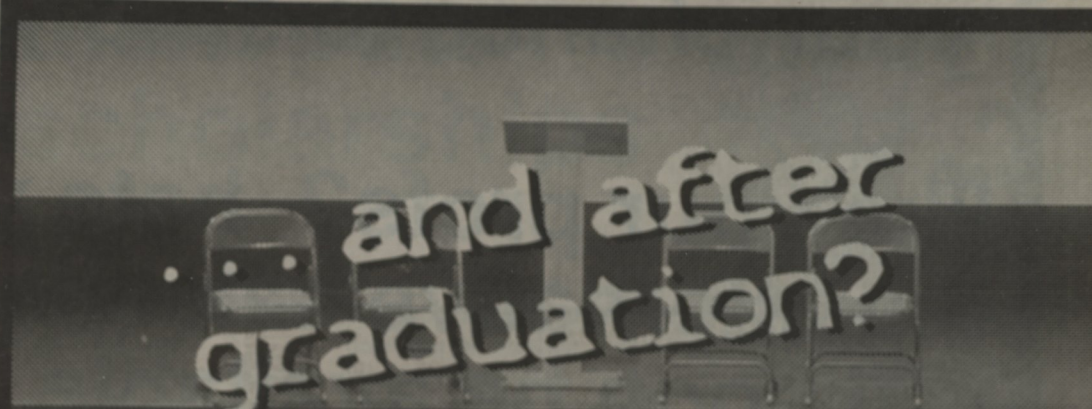
For one day a month, the room will be open to all students for a fee of ten dollars per morning or afternoon. Students can learn how to make a webpage, how to browse or surf the net, or even how to develop graphics for presentations.

"I would love to see students debating this [the new technologies coming into existence]," Mattock said.

She is sure that in this debate, the biggest question raised would be, "What is technology doing to the province," not just the world in general.

"[I hope] the community of PEI will eventually come to see ITEC as theirs," Mattock said.

*For more information regarding the courses offered by ITEC over the internet, please search at <http://www.unb.ca/coned/notemakers>.*



and after graduation?

You'll be  
looking for  
a job.

1-800-668-1010

How about  
creating one  
instead?

If you're between 18 and 29 years old, we can help.

ACOA's Young Entrepreneurs ConneXion program provides access to the information, advice and financing you need to help create your own opportunities in business.

Call your local Canada Business Service Centre and take control of your future today:

1-800-668-1010

[www.acoa.ca](http://www.acoa.ca)



Atlantic Canada  
Opportunities  
Agency

Agence de  
promotion économique  
du Canada atlantique

*Building a stronger economy together.  
Ensemble pour une économie plus forte.*

Canada