

Telidon system to light up our lives

By Carolyn Ryan

Starting next week, UPEI students will be able to see at a glance (or a 5-minute peering stare) exactly what is taking place on campus.

And it will be in colour, too, for those with minds that aren't easily tantalized by mere words.

Student Union VP Internal Jim Mutter says that a Telidon computer information system will be in operation by Monday in the Robertson Library Lounge, giving students continually updated information on meetings, activities, speakers, sports events, financial aid, sub-organizations, employment opportunities and anything else people want to publicize (within reason).

And what's more, the whole package, including

equipment, installation, insurance, computer time, page creation, and labour, will cost the Student Union only \$10 or \$15 a week.

The Computer Centre is donating the computer time, and is letting us use their display terminal and decoder, which are worth about \$3000, free of charge.

Mutter says the project began about three weeks ago, when, walking by the Computer Centre one day, he noticed "UPEISU" flashing on a screen and decided to investigate.

He spoke with attendants there, who had put the program in the system early in September to show its capabilities. And that was the start of something big.

Telidon, according to Glenda MacDonald from the

Computer Centre, is a video system originally meant to provide private users with information about a variety of services.

However, the system proved too expensive for at-home use, and the Federal Department of Communications, who developed it, has been scouting around for alternative ways to utilize it.

The Student Union executive has felt for a long time that there is a void in getting current information to students in an interesting fashion. With the Telidon system, Mutter says the 3-5 minute recurring progression of pages can be updated within an hour in emergencies.

Otherwise, those with announcements are asked to bring them to the Barn by Friday for installation for the

following week. Special forms will be available, and there are four lettering sizes to choose from.

Mutter stresses that the graphics, which are "very visual", can be manipulated to emphasize special items.

When asked if the system could be used for advertising, Mutter agreed that it was possible, but that the SU plans to finish this semester

with no ads, since they have no need of the revenue while the Computer Centre so kindly continues to donate the computer time.

The terminal will be installed in the central column of the lounge, facing the Plexiglass window, allowing as many students as possible to read it at any time. It will operate during regular library hours.

Of course, a question of pressing and heartfelt interest to every student on the UPEI campus should be: What will this mean to our dearly beloved *Netted Gem*? Will this bring another tearful example of computer-induced redundancy?

No, says Mutter, because the *Gem* is needed for news and longer items.

Whew.

The student newspaper of the University of

The Netted Gem

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Debate over committee

By Ruth Edgett

Student Council members have agreed to add an administrator to their committee to investigate the long-term effects of the Vet College, but they can't agree on whether that administrator should be Dr. Reg Thompson.

Thompson, the vet college dean, were concerned that the administration is not represented on the committee. SU President Jack Keefe said Dr. Thompson has asked to be included on the committee because he feels he can contribute a good deal of information.

While some councillors agreed Dr. Thompson would be an ideal committee member since he is the resident expert on vet colleges, others said his presence could give the group a bias and might even intimidate some faculty members from articulating their worries about the college.

After a good deal of debate on the merits of

having Dr. Thompson a member, the council voted to strike one faculty member from the committee and add an administrator. Keefe said he will ask the administration for two recommendations, and council will be able to vote on the preferred person. He said he expects that Dr. Thompson will be recommended.

Student members of the committee are Keefe, Michelle Dorsey and Ken Baker. The Faculty Association was to ratify Wednesday its interim choice of Professors Ian MacQuarrie and Gary Webster. With the new composition of the committee, only one of those professors will be a member.

Liberals lucky This time

By Ruth Edgett

Robert Hanf and his Campus Liberal Club received a round of applause Sunday from Student Union Council members after they finally voted to accept the group as a sub-organization.

The motion to recognize the club was the third in as many council meetings and was carried only after changes were made in the Student Union criteria for accepting sub-organizations.

The Liberal Club was refused recognition at two previous meetings because several council members said they felt accepting a group with obvious political sympathies could be seen as

partisan.

Under the new system proposed by SU President Jack Keefe and VP Internal Jim Mutter, the Liberal Club was classified as an interest group. It will fit into the second tier of a two-tier system that separates groups representing faculties and classes and those with political ideals but which have legitimate interests in UPEI.

Tier One groups will be reclassified as academic organizations or classes, and both categories will be referred to as sub-organizations.

Under the new system, interest groups will have to apply to council for the

traditional \$75 that was previously granted to all sub-organizations automatically.

Such groups will be required to approach council if they want to use campus facilities for fund raisers, and advertising by radio or newspaper on campus will be purchased at full price. As well, the Student Union will not take responsibility for interest groups.

Academic organizations and classes will continue to enjoy the privileges they had previously. This includes the right to purchase advertising in the campus media at half price and use of facilities for fund raising events.



Now that their term is almost over, we'd like to introduce you to the Student Union executive for 1983-84. From left: VP External Kim Gass, VP Internal Jim Mutter, Treasurer Stephen Bishop, Council Speaker Mike Trainor, and President Jack Keefe.

Executive interviews are on the following pages: President, page 7; VP Internal, page 4; VP External, page 5 and Treasurer, page 9.

In writing the articles in this issue about the candidate for executive positions on the Student Union, interviewers had a list of questions which was used for all interviews. This was done to give all candidates for positions a fair chance to express what they felt to be important — and besides, it made our job a darn sight easier!

Therefore, any differences in articles for the candidates of any one position are due, not to leading questions on our part, but to candidates' interpretations of the questions and issues.

For more information on candidates' positions and platforms, we encourage you to attend the executive speeches, to be given in the Robertson Library Lounge on Monday, March 5 at 12:30.

These are the people who want to represent you. You choose — we don't want to do it for you!

And above all, please remember to drop by the ballot box in the Library from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, and make your presence felt.

(P.S. We ordered the article for each position in alphabetical order.)

It's a mess out there!

With elections approaching next week, just remember: these days many student politicians live by the law of the bungle.