

MEDIA NEWS

By Joe Connor

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute has announced details of an exchange program whereby Canadian specialists in various aspects of educational technology will visit New Delhi India in May of this year. The program is designed to encourage exchanges in educational technology between the two countries, and is sponsored by the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute and the University Grants Commission of India.

- The objectives of the visitation are four:
1. To disseminate information on educational technologies and innovative programs.
 2. To promote discussion on the possible uses of educational technology in search of the most efficient ways of delivering educational programs to meet India's need for education and training.
 3. To discuss the role of institutions of higher education in the field of distance education and training through modern technologies.
 4. To consider the possibilities of collaboration between Canadian and Indian

institutions in the development of software.

The tentative program has the Canadians involved in two weeks of workshops, first in New Delhi, then at other locations such as Bombay, Osmania University, and Poona University.

- The Canadians participating in the program are
- Dr. Bill Winn (Co-ordinator) University of Calgary
 - Professor Michel Cartier University of Quebec
 - Dr. Glen Cartwright University of McGill
 - Dr. Gary Coldevin Concordia University
 - Dr. Barry Ellis University of Calgary
 - Dr. Denis Hlynka University of Manitoba
 - Dr. Jeff Potter University of Victoria
 - Dr. Ian Taylor Athabasca University.

Computer Technologies for Productive Learning, the **Fourth Canadian Symposium on Instructional Technology**, sponsored by the Associate Committee on Instructional Technology of the National Research Council of Canada will be held in Winnipeg on October 19th through the 21st, 1983. This national symposium was called to inform the educational and business communities of recent advances in computer-aided learning technology and its applications. Particular attention will be paid to microcomputers, advanced telecommunication techniques, video-discs, videotex, and speech generation.

For further information contact:
 Ken Charbonneau,
 Conference Services Office
 National Research Council of Canada
 Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0R6 (613) 933-9009
 Telex: 053-3145

Educators from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Ukrainian S.S.R., U.S.S.R., United

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COMPUTER NEWS

By Rick Kenny

This column is intended to be mainly a vehicle for informing members of current happenings on the Canadian and international educational computing scene. If you have news items which you would like to submit, please forward them to:

Mr Rick Kenny
 Media Services Group
 Calgary Board of Education
 3610 - 9th Street S.E.
 Calgary, Alberta
 T2G 3C5

TV Ontario Academy On Computers In Education

Beginning February 16, TV Ontario has been offering a twelve week academy on computers in education. The academy is on television-based do-it-yourself learning system designed to help the viewer to become familiar with the workings of a microcomputer and the related terminology, to operate one of three micros (The PET, The Apple II Plus, and TRS-80), to develop simple computer programs, to evaluate and select software for classroom use and to discover available resources. It includes a series of twelve half-hour television programs, four texts, and continual direction from course developers through correspondence and newsletters.

The programs are being broadcast over the TV Ontario network Wednesdays at 9:00 p.m. E.S.T. and are repeated the following Saturday at 12:30 p.m. The series is entitled **BITS and BYTES** and features Billy Van and Luba Goy. The supporting texts include a TVO Academy Participant's Guide, an Educational-Applications Handbook, the Bits and Bytes Resource Book (for the television series) and a Hands-on-Beginner's Manual (for one of the afore-mentioned microcomputers).

For further information, contact the TVO Academy on Computers in Education, Part-Time Learning, TV Ontario, Box 200, Station Q, Toronto, Ontario, M4T 2T1.

Consumers Union and EPIE Launch Evaluation Service

Consumers Union, publisher of **Consumer Reports** and **Penny Power** magazines and the EPIE Institute have joined together to develop a new evaluation service designed to provide schools and parent groups with in-depth, unbiased evaluations of educational computer products. They will provide subscribers with detailed reports on computers, monitors, printers and software, as well as with a monthly school consumer news-

letter.

The reports will be in the form of regularly updatable and expandable files — to be known as **PRO/FILES** — and will offer detailed reviews of tested products. The newsletter, **MICROGRAM**, is intended to be a vehicle for collecting and acting on consumer concerns, complaints, and, hopefully, commendations for good products and services. It will also keep its readers informed of the largest hardware purchased for testing by Consumers Union and EPIE. Microgram will also be published regularly in the **Computing Teacher**.

The regular annual subscription to the service will cost \$298 U.S. but a special charter subscription is available for \$195 U.S. For more information, contact EPIE — Consumers Union, P.O. Box 620, Stony Brook, New York, U.S.A., 11790.

The U.S. National Diffusion Network

The National Diffusion Network (NDN) is an American, federally-funded system designed to make exemplary educational programs available for adoption by schools, colleges, and other institutions. It does so by providing funds to these programs to allow them to advertise their services to these institutions and to provide inservice training, follow-up assistance, and, in some cases, curriculum materials. All programs are reviewed by a panel composed of education and evaluation experts from the U.S. Department of Education.

Of interest to Canadians from this service may be NDN's catalogue entitled **Educational Programs That Work**. It contains a description of each program, evaluation data, costs (U.S.) adoption requirements, the director of the particular program, and costs \$5.50 U.S. per copy (prepaid). Write to:

Far-West Laboratory for Educational Research and Development, 1855 Folsom Street, San Francisco, California, U.S.A., 94103.

Erasable Video Disk Developed

An erasable, re-recordable video disk has been developed by the Japan Broadcasting Corporation. The Japanese prototype uses a helium neon laser to write data on a disk coated with a magnetic film. The laser beam's heat causes local reversals of the film's magnetic field, thus enabling data to be recorded. The entire disk can be erased by placing it in a strong magnetic field. New data can also be written over top of old. Conventional laser disc systems use a destructive form of recording by punching holes in the coating of the disk.

We attended the Western Canada Film Showcase

WUITS


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- School District Manitoba Council for International Cooperation
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Kingdom, U.S.A., will have the opportunity to compare the educational use of new communication and information technologies through a study being undertaken by the national commissions for Unesco in the countries of the European region. The first meeting of the three-year joint study was convened by the Canadian and American commissions in collaboration with the Canadian lead agency — TV Ontario (TVO). On behalf of the Canadian commission, TVO is coordinating the first year of the study aimed at surveying the educational use of the new technologies, studying their impact and identifying areas in which further development, research and evaluation are indicated for pursuit at the national, regional and international levels. For further information contact: Mariette Hogue, Programme Officer, Education, Canadian Commission for Unesco, 255 Albert St., P.O. Box 1047, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5V8 (613) 237-3408.

The International Council for Educational Media (ICEM) has announced the theme of its 1982/83 visual literacy series competition for students. The theme is "Monster". Entrants in the competition must create a 4-7 minute film, videotape, or slide programme that will tell a story without words. Speech may be used but the plot must not depend on words. Further information is available from: International Council for Educational Media, c/o Hans G. Kratz, 145 Voyageur Estates

52152 Range Road 210
Sherwood Park, Alberta T5G 1A5

"Database publishing", the field which supplies archive information to professional customers — pharmacists, patent attorneys, stock analysts — has a new storage medium. Microfiche discs can contain 6000 documents or 4-megabytes of data. Laser and electron beam lithography is used to reduce the images, which are stamped onto a clear plastic disc. A workstation, with Apple II computing power, is used to locate the indexed information and to display it on a high resolution video screen.

The Toronto International Centre is the site for Toronto Computer Fair 1983 on June 23rd through the 26th. Computer Fair will stress microcomputer applications in telecommunications, education, word processing, graphics, music, games, languages, database management. Lectures, seminars, and a large exhibit display will highlight the fair.

For further information contact:
Debbie Bannon
Cam MacDonald
Computer Fair 2283 Queen St. E.,
Toronto, Ont. M4E 1G6 (416) 690-9666

SaskMedia, a Crown corporation established in 1974 to produce and distribute educational materials, will be dissolved March 31, Gary Lane, the

minister responsible, announced Jan. 19. The government will continue to distribute educational materials, such as films, slides, tapes, video-tapes and transparencies, but the private sector will be invited to take over production, Lane said.

Cabinet decided to get rid of the Saskatchewan Educational Communications Corporation after receiving recommendations from an internal advisory committee established in September to assess the corporation's performance.

Elimination of SaskMedia will save the government about \$1 million a year, Lane said. The corporation's assets, including the film and tape library, and 40 of the 64 employees will be transferred to the education department.

The distribution services will be maintained as a separate unit within the department until more permanent accommodations can be made, and attempts will be made to accommodate the remaining 24 employees elsewhere in the government, Lane said in a release.

The government will try to encourage private production of educational programs by allowing Saskatchewan film producers to use SaskMedia's production facilities at a favorable cost, the minister said.

"The private sector can effectively fulfill many of the government requirements for the production of educational programs, whereas the production services of SaskMedia have for some time been the object of severe criticism on the part of dissatisfied customers and private sector competitors alike."

—Reprinted from the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix, Jan. 19, 1983.

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