U of A on line

by Ken Hui

The university is now the Western Canadian link in a world-wide computer based interconnection of educational institutions.

It joins the University of New Brunswick and the University of Guleph as the east and central coordinators in the nation-wide NetNorth computer network.

"MTS is limited to a certain group of students while NetNorth West takes care of an extra number of people," said Darwin Fedorick, Manager of Academic Systems, Computing Services.

EDUCOM for NetNorth, and its U.S. and European counterparts —BITNET and EARN networks —provide worldwide coordination services. Access to bulletin information with Israel's university was demonstrated in the NetNorth West opening ceremony.

IBM Canada Ltd. is providing technical assistance and operating capital of more than $500,000 over three years. They have also provided an IBM 4341 system to the central coordinating university, Guleph.

An IBM represenative commented that the company recognizes the important of making substantial contributing to society.

Participating is available to all organizations interested in furthering academic and research activities at Canadian education institutions.
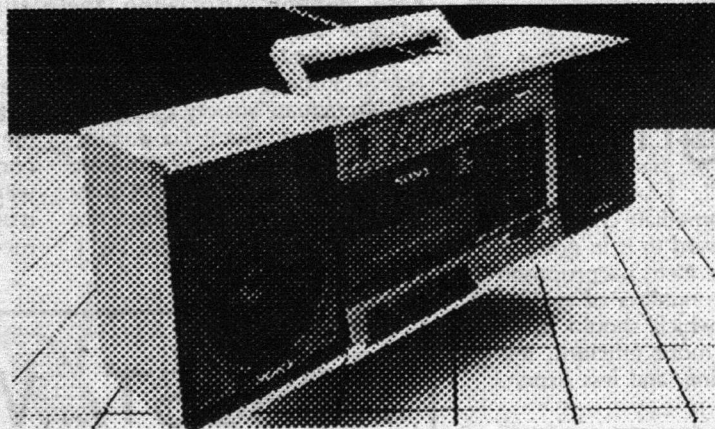
Operating costs per member institute is between $500 and $550. The network is subsidized by IBM for three years.

One example of the network's capability is a 500 word message can be sent form Victoria, B.C. to St. John's Nfld. in less than one second with this system.

Services available to users of NetNorth include interactive message transmissions, data file transfers, mail transfers, user directory services, bulletin boards, directory of research specialists, a listing of sites and computers; and user help.