

Internet expands

By Gazette Staff

As the world around us gets more complicated, the need to grow with it or be left behind will become ever increasingly important. Thanks to the Internet and other on-line services, the so-called "Global Village" is shrinking around us. There are more people on the Internet than ever, as well as more ways for those locally to join the growing population of "netters."

Previously, the only real choices Nova Scotians had to get on the Internet were to become a student at a local post-secondary educational institution and get an account through their computer department or to pay for access through the Nova Scotia Technology Network (NSTN), the provider for the entire province, including the universities.

Today, there are other ways to get Internet access, although there is some overlap in terms of services provided, as well as the base provider. Here are a few examples:

Chebucto Freenet

This service comes on line earlier this year and is almost free of charge to use (donations are optional). Chebucto Freenet is connected to the Internet through Dalhousie University, which in turn gets its feed by way of NSTN, like all other universities in Nova Scotia.

The Chebucto Freenet offers most Internet services, such as email, news, etc. And it would be hard to find a

better price.

ISIS

This newcomer to the Nova Scotia Internet scene is an independent supplier. A commercial operation, ISIS (Internet Services and Information Systems) is not on .CA net, getting their feed instead from a supplier in Toronto.

This bypasses the often slow Canadian part of Internet, but connections to other Canadian sites, even ones in Nova Scotia, are slow (due to the distance between Toronto and Halifax, the hubs of the respective providers).

Being a fresh face, ISIS is still prone to the teething pains that any new operation of this kind can expect. But for those who want complete Internet access with a minimum of cost, ISIS is one of the better ones (\$25.00/month, flat rate).

...the "global village" is shrinking around us

NSTN

The original and still champion in terms of size, NSTN has until recently been the only provider of Internet services in Nova Scotia. If you've been on a university account anywhere in Nova Scotia or even the Chebucto Freenet, this is where it all comes from.

NSTN provides full Internet ac-

cess to its subscribers, from the universities down to the individual user with a modem. Cost is higher than the other commercial provider (ISIS), at \$25.00 per month, which gives the subscriber 20 hours of use. After the 20 hours are used up for the month, the user is charged one dollar per hour.

If it's reliability you're looking for, NSTN is the way to go for Internet services in Nova Scotia, but don't discount the competition, because they may have something that NSTN may not have.

The miracle of death

by Barb Müller

Millions of dollars are spent annually on pet food, care, toys, etc. We love our pets... that is, until they grow up.

We get tired of walking them, we move or they become just too much trouble. Then we abandon them — by the millions. We may drop them off at the animal shelter, thinking they'll get a better life — but the truth is when we drop them off at the animal shelter, we drop them off to die.

There just are not prospective homes for these unwanted animals — not to mention the fact that most people who want pets do not go to their local shelter to, for ex-

ample, pick a puppy from a litter of ten unwanted pets.

The problem? First, un-"fixed" pets; second, compulsive buyers of cute pet-shop pets.

Let us consider non-sterilized pets:

A female dog reaches sexual maturity at about six months of age and comes into heat twice a year thereafter. She may give birth to a litter of puppies every six months.

Female cats reach sexual maturity at about 6 months, but come into heat every two to three weeks, from February until late summer. One female cat may have up to four litters a year, with as much as six kittens per litter.

"People who let their dogs and

curious as to whether there is anyone who has the same birthday (not year — just day and month). How many people would there have to be in order to have better than a fifty-fifty odd of two or more people sharing a birthday?

Drop your answers off at the Gazette office, room 312, DalSUB or send them via email to gazette@ac.dal.ca. The first person to send in the correct solution gets their name published next week — so hurry with the solutions!

POINTLESS PONDERABLES

Last week's solution:

Last week's solution was to reduce the size of your valiant starship by 33.3%. Congratulations to Brian May, who sent his answer in via email at 11:52 a.m., on October 21. Keep those answers coming in everyone. This is turning into a real race.

This week's question:

You're at the obligatory Halloween bash, when the topic of birthdays comes up. There are a lot of people there and someone gets

cats have litters in order to show their children 'the miracle of birth' should come witness 'the miracle of death' performed in the back rooms of animal shelters all over the country," said Phyllis Wright, Director of Sheltering, Humane Society of the U.S.

Pet shops sell about 360,000 puppies each year from "puppy mills," which are breeding kennels located mostly in the mid-western states. Canadians receive these puppies unchecked thanks to free trade.

The puppy mills keep breeding dogs in elevated cages. These elevated cages are cramped, crude and filthy. The bitches are bred continuously, the puppies are shipped (like vegetables) at four to six weeks of age. Psychological disorders due to early weaning and shipping conditions are common, due to constant inbreeding.

Pet shops are also known for killing (by drowning or beating) unsold overgrown puppies and kittens.

There are solutions to these problems however:

- Neutering and spaying dogs and cats can greatly reduce the number of unwanted kittens and puppies;
- Never patronize pet shops and breeders. They contribute to dog and cat overpopulation. The animals at your local shelter have personality, charm and looks;
- Never give animals as gifts;
- Resist buying "that doggie in the window." Pet shops will just replace him or her; and
- Volunteer at your local animal shelter (SPCA in Dartmouth).

Chlorine linked to breast cancer

by Heather McGuffin

MONTREAL (CUP) — An emerging body of evidence suggests that chlorine compounds used for bleaching paper products may also be linked to breast cancer in women.

"Breast cancer is now being associated with chlorine," said Johanne Fillion, administrative coordinator for Greenpeace in Montreal. "It isn't a fact, but since we have reason to question it, we should be taking precautionary action."

The concern is over organochlorines, the toxic chemical by-products of chlorine technology. More than 1,000 different organochlorines, including dioxins and

furans, are discharged in the effluent of pulp mills. More than one million tons are dumped into North American waterways every year.

Many organochlorines are widespread in air, water, food and the workplace, and have accumulated in the tissues and fluids of the general population.

A number of studies, including a 1993 report from The New York University Women's Health Study, have shown that women with breast cancer tend to have higher levels of organochlorines in their fat and blood than healthy women.

"Our observations provide important new evidence relating low-level environmental contamination

with organochlorine residues to the risk of breast cancer in women. Given the widespread dissemination of organochlorines in the environment, these findings have immediate and far-reaching implications for public health intervention worldwide," the report concluded.

"There are alternatives," Fillion said. "That is why we are so against the use of chlorine."

Fillion says she is concerned about feminine-hygiene products, particularly tampons, which are chlorine-bleached.

"It's unnecessary for chlorine to be used on these products," Fillion said. "We have to let the companies know we don't want chlorine used

on sanitary pads and tampons. There is no reason for it.

For women who want to stay away from chlorine-bleached feminine-hygiene products, there are non-disposable sanitary pads and tampon alternatives available at many health food stores.

While some women might cringe at the idea of re-using feminine-hygiene products, it's easy to do, according to Louise Dallaire, co-owner of Ecologique, a distributor of reusable menstruation products.

"It isn't any more work. It's just a change in mindset," Dallaire said.

ISS OPPORTUNITIES

Positions available on Council:

Chairperson
Secretary

Applications available in Room 222, SUB
Deadline for applications Oct. 31, 1994 at 4:30 p.m.

For more info contact Tiffany Jay at 494-1106 or
by e-mail: DSUEXVP@ac.dal.ca

DSU/UNITED WAY

3-3 Basketball Tournament

Saturday November 5, 1994 11am-3pm

at Dalplex. \$15 per team.

Great Prizes! For further info. contact
Lewis Jacobson 494-1106.