

**MailGate Suggestions**

A wide variety of flowers and indoor plants at prices to suit any budget can be found at Ferns 'n Flowers central corridor near the water fountain.

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### THE SOFTWARE REVOLUTION

More recently, some exciting software developments are adding to the capability of personal computers and NAPLPS. Not surprisingly, they come from Canadian companies; a result of Canada's head start with Telidon - NAPLPS systems.

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### THE PERSONAL COMPUTER - DECODED!

An Ottawa firm, Microstar Software, has devised a powerful software package which converts the IBM PC, Compaq, Columbia Data Products, Hyperion and IBM PC look-alikes into Telidon - NAPLPS terminals. For the growing numbers who already have made the plunge into personal computing, the Microstar route will be one of the simplest, and least expensive, means to climb on the Telidon bandwagon. The software is available on disk. The user needs a 128K system, colour card, monitor and modem.

Not only does the software allow users to access NAPLPS databases and display subsets, but these can be accessed through public gateway systems, such as iNet. It will even automatically sense when Telidon - NAPLPS protocols are being accessed and configure accordingly, alleviating the user from any complex set-up procedures. So the creators have managed to conserve one of the most fundamental aspects of Telidon accessing - ease of use and user friendliness. As Microstar describes it, "It's a neophyte's dream."

Through an arrangement with Infomart, the largest Canadian Telidon - NAPLPS information provider, purchasers of the Microstar package are given 10 free hours of access time to the vast Infomart databases.

### A POWERHOUSE OF FOUR

Another Ottawa company, Microtaure Ltd., has developed some highly sophisticated - and highly successful - software which it calls "Teligraph". The Microtaure Teligraph system incorporates four powerful programs which, together, recast the personal computer into a Telidon - NAPLPS page creation system.

The first program allows the PC to retrieve pages from Telidon databases and either display them, pump them through to outputs such as colour printers or photographic units, or store them on disk by page or by groups for later processing and use. The second provides a full Telidon - NAPLPS page creation capacity, using a two-screen system. One screen provides codes and instructions, the second provides the "canvas" on which the Telidon text and graphics are created. With a third program, redefinable text becomes possible, allowing the use of non-Roman alphabets, symbols, ideographs and the like. And finally, a fourth program allows a user to assemble pages, which have either been retrieved from a central data base or created on the spot, for dramatic audio-visual presentations.

The Microtaure package is configured for the IBM PC and requires a 16-bit machine with a minimum 256K RAM, both colour and monochrome screens, a colour card and modem.