

# Faculty of law opens new Computer lab

(UNB-PRI) The law may be a venerable profession, the study of which has its own longstanding traditions, but modern computer technology is having no trouble finding valuable roles in both the practice and the teaching of law.

For example, the faculty of law at the University of New Brunswick has just officially opened a new computer lab in the law library of Ludlow Hall. The facility is a self-contained local area network that links ten IBM PC workstations to a high capacity file server and three printers, allowing ten students simultaneous access to a variety of specialized software and databases.

Established with the aid of a \$50,000 gift from the New Brunswick Law Foundation, the system will give students at all levels of the 3-year law program at UNB an opportunity to learn to use computer systems to help them to do legal research, prepare their course work, and test their knowledge of the law.

Through computer assisted legal research programs, the lab will train students and give them experience in the use of major Canadian legal databases such as QL (Quicklaw) and CAN/LAW. Law librarian Anne Crocker is enthusiastic

about the high-tech addition to her library.

Reference librarian, John Sadler, oversees the day-to-day operation of the new lab. "Before this lab was set up, all we had were a couple of stand-alone PCs. There was lots of demand, but no facility. This lab is already getting a lot of use, so it's making a big difference for our students," he said.

As part of the instructional function of the new computer lab, the law library is mounting computer assisted legal instruction programs that will help students in learning about certain areas of law. One program already available on their network is Paper Choice, software that leads students through the mysteries of the legal system and legal publishing in the United States. "The American legal system and, hence, American legal publications, are organized differently from the Canadian. Paper Choice helps take the awkwardness out of dealing with those differences," Ms Crocker explained.

Another program on the law library system is one developed by law faculty member David Townsend and student Jake Vanderlaan. Called Change of

conveyancing or real property law.

In addition to research and instructional software, the lab also makes a sophisticated word processor, WordPerfect 5.1, available to all users of the new network.

Karl Dore, dean of law at UNB, called the new facility a real breakthrough for the law school. "The research

capabilities it provides are revolutionary. We can find in seconds what would take us weeks and months to do in the old manual way. It really plugs in into a much wider network of facilities in our university community and throughout the world," he said. "We very much appreciate the vital role played by the Law Foundation in establishing this lab, not just

with their generous donation of money, but also with their expertise in helping us select the most suitable and useful system for our purposes."



Reference librarian John Sadler (foreground) demonstrates one of the lab's 10 PC workstations for, from left, UNB law librarian Anne Crocker; dean of law Karl Dore; and Laura Downey, executive director of the New Brunswick Law Foundation, which donated \$50,000 to equip the new lab. Photo by Joy Cummings-Dickinson.

## Wednesday Night Movies

**"ONE OF THE BIGGEST HITS OF THE SEASON!"**

- Joel Siegel, GOOD MORNING AMERICA

**"TOTALLY DELIGHTFUL...THE SCRIPT IS WONDERFUL AND DELIVERY IS ABSOLUTELY PERFECT! HE HAD ME LAUGHING OUT LOUD."**

- Dixie Whatley, AT THE MOVIES

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**IS WINNING IN THIS ROLE. IS VERY APPEALING, VERY WARM AND HUMAN...THEY JUST CHARM THE SOCKS OFF OF YOU."**

- Roger Ebert, SISKEL & EBERT

**"A RIOTOUS COMEDY!"**

**AN UNDENIABLE CROWD-PLEASER."**

- Peter Stack, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

**"GENUINELY CHARMING...A SMART, SWEET-TEMPERED MOVIE."**

**IS AS CHARMING AND AS VULNERABLE AS WE'VE ALL FORGOTTEN HE COULD BE, AND TOO, IS LITTLE SHORT OF PERFECT IN HER MOST APPEALING PART TO DATE."**

- Chris Willman, LOS ANGELES TIMES

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The fair wil afternoon at th University Co Bailey Drive Old Arts Bu continue on prizes will b exhibits will public beginn Saturday and will be an ceremony to b of F.J. Toole

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# health i

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