

## Library starts program for disabled

The National Library of Canada has announced a new program that will benefit disabled Canadians.

The program is designed to help meet the needs of many Canadians whose access to information is limited by a reading disability. Under the program, the National Library will provide information and advice to libraries across the country. The service is in response to the federal government's report of the Special Commons Committee on the Disabled and Handicapped, released last year.

To avoid duplication of effort among libraries, the National Library will provide information on special materials being produced for the print handicapped and on new aids to help disabled readers.

The National Library will also hold a registry of reading materials with information on titles in braille and on tape so that other producers of such materials, as well as libraries and educators, can pass the information on to users. Once these titles have been acquired by libraries, the National Library will keep records of these library holdings in a catalogue for the visually and physically handicapped. Print handicapped readers will also benefit from their own register of reading materials which will be maintained by the National Library.

## Canadian skiers win at World Cup competitions

Canadian skiers won both the men's and women's events at the World Cup aerial competition held in Sella Nevea, Italy.



Marie-Claude Asselin

Athlete Information

Jean Corriveau, 23, of Quebec City, defending World Cup aerial champion, performed a twisting triple somersault on his final jump to win his third consecutive aerial event.

Marie Claude Asselin, 19, of St. Agathe, Quebec, captured her fifth consecutive women's aerial competition, landing a double somersault called a layout tuck. Asselin also won the women's combined gold medal after placing second in the mogul competition and fourth in the ballet event.

## Acid snow threatens Arctic

Federal scientists have determined that the level of acid snow falling in the high Arctic now is more than twice the historical average.

Data for the federal study by Drs. Roy Koerner and David Fisher was gleaned from the 300-metre-thick glacier on Ellesmere Island, which contains ice dating back thousands of years. Results from their experiments indicated that acid levels started to climb in the 1950s.

The new data, recently published by the two scientists in the science journal *Nature*, shows that at the current rate of increase the level of acid in the Arctic snow could be five times the 10 000-year norm by the turn of the century. Dr. Koerner cites man-made pollution as the only possible explanation for the increasing acid rain.

Canada's acid-rain monitoring network has been gathering data for less than a decade and the oldest evidence from the United States dates back only to the 1950s. The haze that results from the pollution can cut winter visibility in the Arctic from 300 to 30 kilometres and is important in that it proves "the link between pollution in the Arctic and distant sources", according to an Environment Canada spokesman.

"Our interest now is to find out where it's coming from," said Dr. Koerner, who uses the help of many scientists travelling in the Arctic for the project.

While the amount of acid falling in the snow in the Arctic today is surprising to researchers because Ellesmere Island is several hundred kilometres from the nearest source of pollution, the concentration of acid in the precipitation on the island is about ten times weaker than that threatening lakes, crops and human health in the eastern Canadian and New England states.

## Canada at computer exhibition

Three Canadian companies were among those which took part in the first Gulf Computer Exhibition held recently at the Dubai International Trade Centre in the United Arab Emirates.

Arabic Latin Information Systems of Montreal showed the first products in its complete line of peripherals and micro-computers handling Arabic scripts. Also shown were the *Alis* terminal and printer, which form the basis of a low-cost Arabic micro-computer where English is not required, and the *Alis* bilingual terminal and twin-headed printer for applications requiring simultaneous processing of both Arabic and English script.

## Simultaneous translation

Arya Systems International Incorporated of Montreal showed a word and data processing system which can handle English, French and Arabic or any other three languages simultaneously.

Systems Dynamic Corporation of Markham, Ontario displayed software products for applications in business management, manufacturing, government, education, food distribution and report writing, together with a desk-top micro-computer system.

## Ontario Hydro Candus top list

Ontario Hydro's eight Candu reactors, as a group, were the best performers among the non-communist world's nuclear power stations last year, according to a recent issue of *Nucleonics Week*.

Five of Ontario Hydro's reactors placed in the top ten and all eight in the top 20 of a survey by the New York-based McGraw-Hill Incorporated news-letter which rated 130 reactors in the non-communist world.

## Rated first and second

Unit 1 at the Bruce Nuclear Power Development site ranked first with a 95.5 rating, followed by Unit 4 at the Pickering site with 92 per cent. The rankings measure reactor output performance as a percentage of capacity.

A 100 per cent rating would require a reactor to produce at maximum generating capacity 24 hours a day throughout the entire year.

Ontario Hydro has four reactors at both the Bruce and Pickering sites.