

Beardom boredom



This resident of the Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg is not so sure he is ready for spring.

News briefs

Microtel, a unit of BC Telephone, has contracts that may be worth \$10 million with Nichimen Corp., of Tokyo to market Telidon videotex services in Japan. Nichimen, Japan's ninth-largest trading company, will use the Microtel service to send information on stock market prices or daily horoscopes to offices or homes. Mitsui and Co., Telidon's Japanese agent, believes Telidon can get a 20 per cent share of the Japanese market by concentrating on business applications. Nichimen will also promote Microtel telecommunications equipment in South-east Asia.

Scarborough College, University of Toronto, is instituting a co-operative program in international development studies, combining academic courses with practical work experience in a Third World country. Students will complete a work term of about eight months, usually with a Canadian-sponsored development project or agency, beginning at the end of the third year. They will have to pay part of the associated travel expenses or raise support from local service clubs or business associations.

Air Canada has launched a \$75-million issue of ten-year bonds on the London Stock Exchange, marking the carrier's first venture in the Euro-sterling market. Funds from the sale of the bonds will represent 15 per cent of the airline's

planned \$492-million capital expenditure this year and largely pay for six *Boeing 767's* being delivered in 1984. Air Canada has launched two public bond issues in Switzerland and two in West Germany since May 1982.

A formal agreement establishing direct cultural, economic and technological exchange links between Saskatchewan and the Chinese province of Jilin will be signed in June in Regina. The decision for the "twinning" of the two provinces followed a meeting between Premier Grant Devine and Jilin governor Zhao Xiu. The actual agreement will be completed when a Jilin delegation headed by the governor travels to Saskatchewan next June. The arrangements will make Saskatchewan the second Canadian province to have a formal twinning agreement with a Chinese province. Alberta has already twinned with Heilongjiang, a province directly north-east of Jilin.

In a move expected to enhance Canada's commercial and economic relations with Romania, two Canadian companies are to begin supplying equipment to that country's Cernavoda nuclear power facility. Babcock and Wilcox Canada of Cambridge, Ontario will supply heat exchangers and steam generators while Canadian Vickers of Montreal will provide calandrias under contracts valued at \$70 million.

Partagec Inc. of Quebec has announced an agreement with the National

Research Council to develop and distribute nationally bilingual National Authoring Language (Natal) courseware for such applications as cardiac arrest treatment. Partagec will use Telidon technology in the \$759 000, 18-month project. The organization is a non-profit venture created in 1965 to provide auxiliary services to social service institutions in the Quebec area.

A software cartridge that transforms the Commodore 64 microcomputer into a videotex (NAPLPS) terminal has been introduced by Avcor, a division of Southam Communications Inc. of Toronto. For \$99.95, the Jordan Videotex Decoder allows users to access a videotex data base. For owners with a disc drive, the cartridge will allow for the storage of individual frames for later recall. Graphic and text capabilities are incorporated in the cartridge.

A 22-day Chinese trade and cultural show, the largest of its kind outside of China, recently opened Edmonton's huge new \$36 million Agricom Building. The event featured 200 shipping containers full of exhibits, plus the Great Circus of China which started a Canadian tour there. The Chinese, who have a \$1.3 billion trade deficit with Canada, hope to make Canadians aware of their production machinery as well as of their textiles and crafts.

Gaetan Boucher, Olympic speed-skating champion, and Harry (Red) Foster, promoter of sports for handicapped children, were among six inductees recently named to Canada's Sports Hall of Fame. Joining them were former Montreal Canadiens' goal-tender Ken Dryden, former Canadian Football League fullback George Reed, B.C. swimming star Leslie Cliff, and Pat Ramage of Montreal, who was elected in the builders' category along with Foster.

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