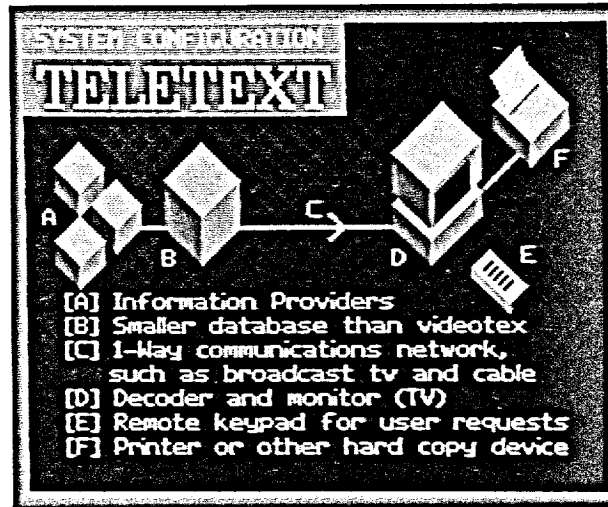


ALASKA

ALASKA STUDENTS NO LONGER ISOLATED

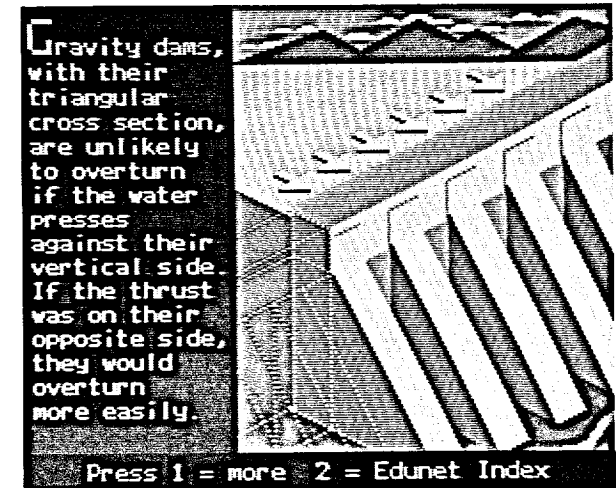


In Alaska, 250 communities are spread throughout the mountainous state and only 10 per cent of them can be reached by road.

This, coupled with the harsh climate, presents special problems for educators.

Now a broadcast teletext distribution system has been installed to beam text and graphics to each of these remote communities so that students can interact with their instructors.

Students are provided with teletext decoders. The University, or Department of Education via the Learn Alaska Network, then beams information, or even an entire computer program to the students. The videotex technology can translate these programs for direct viewing on the television screen.



The system was developed and installed by Systemhouse of Ottawa, Canada.

The service is based on the North American Videotex Standard - NAPLPS - and is delivered via the Learn Alaska Instructional Communication facilities of Alascom, the common carrier in Alaska.

The University of Alaska Instructional Telecommunications Consortium (UAITC) operates the Learn Alaska Network on behalf of the state-wide university system and the Alaska Department of Education.

Bill McCaughn of the UAITC said there was "no other system like this in the world. At present there are approximately 1,500 Apple II microcomputers in use in public schools and university facilities in Alaska's 250 communities.

"The students use these computers as well as audio teleconferencing and broadcast television as a primary means of receiving major portions of their instruction.