THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

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PRENTICE BULLETIN

MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPH RESTORED BY PRENTICE PHOTOGRAPHY UNIT
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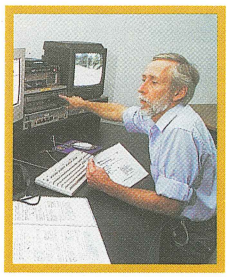

NEW EQUPMENT MAKES VIDEO EDITING SIMPLE
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PRENTICE ARTIST COMMISSIONED TO CREATE ARTWORKS
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Agreement begins new era in information technology support

Prentice Director Graham Rees and Secretary and Registrar Douglas Porter sign the historic agreement.

Academic registrar Neville Lamb has hailed a long-term IT agreement signed with the Prentice Centre as the start of a new era in IT support for Central Administration.

"This agreement is an investment in the future... with it and other developments affecting the Centre, Prentice will become the IT hub of the university," he said.

The three-year IT agreement signed last month is the result of extensive negotiations between Prentice and Central Admin and is the biggest service agreement of its kind for the Prentice Centre.

"We recognised that the Central Administration alone cannot provide all of its IT requirements internally," Mr Lamb said.

"IT technology is moving too quickly.

"It would be hard to find a big enough player outside the university who knows our core business as well as Prentice, and for teaching, research and administration, having an expert computer centre in-house is essential."

He said Central Administration needed to devote its IT expertise to supporting and developing business applications – for example, the student system and SI-Net and the finance, human resources and research management systems.

Prentice Associate Director (production and operations) Noela Meier said the agreement would provide most IT services including server support and security, host systems management, database administration and desktop support.

Web administration and development advice, system monitoring, third-party contract maintenance and network infrastructure advice are also included.

"This agreement looks after the business critical environment with performance measures built into the agreement for Prentice to respond to queries and for machine time availability," she said.

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Flexible teaching resources on show at Ipswich

University of Queensland staff and academics had a close-up look at multi-media technology when the Prentice Centre threw open its doors in June.

Presentation Services product manager Charles Costanza said the open day aimed to introduce staff to flexible teaching resources in preparation for the UQ Ipswich campus opening.

"Ipswich campus is the way teaching is going – the new technologies present quite a learning curve for teachers," he said.

"This technology is not just for those at UQ Ipswich but for anyone interested in flexible delivery resource tools."

Staff from the Ipswich campus Learning and Research Development Unit, the Tertiary Education Development Institution and academics developing course material throughout the University were shown the VideoVision on-location recording system, using high resolution digital camera.

Hank Sezto from the Web Development Unit gave a demonstration on a web-based teaching tool called Netforum.

"One of the areas of major interest to staff was VideoVision and web development, because these tools allow flexible delivery of course content, assignments and tests," Mr Costanza said.

He said Prentice's AvidCinema (see story on page three) was one tool teaching staff could use to create VHS quality video without the need of an operator.

"This is a hands-on system which is very simple to use," he said.

The staff were given a complete overview and costing for the range of teaching facilities available at Prentice.

For more information contact Charles Costanza on 3365 9078 or email c.costanza@prentice.uq.edu.au

DID YOU KNOW?

Tried and true tips for getting the most out of your computer

by Scott Dawson, computer education officer

EXCEL 5 & 95

To copy formats from one cell or range of cells to another, you can use the format painter button on the standard toolbar.

Select the cells whose format you want to copy, click the format painter button, and then select the cells you want to copy the format to.

Note: To continue pasting the format to several locations, double click the format painter button instead of clicking once. Click the button again when finished. This also works in Word.

WORD 6 & 95

You can quickly undo autocorrect changes by holding down the Ctrl key and pressing z. For example, when you type (c), autocorrect will normally replace it with ©.

POWERPOINT 97

You can distribute a Powerpoint presentation for use without having to load the presentation into Powerpoint before running it.

Simply save it as a Powerpoint show. From the file menu choose save as, enter a file name, then choose PowerPoint Show from the save as type list, then choose save.

A user can now simply double-click the file in Explorer.

For course information, see our website at http://prentice.uq.edu.au/education

MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPH RESTORED BY PRENTICE UNIT

Mystery surrounds the origins of an old photograph which has been restored by the Prentice Centre Photography Unit.

The picture was lent to Civil Engineering research consultant Michael Gourlay during his research into the 1890s civil engineering firm Kerle and Kerle.

"The Kerle family sent me the photo, which we think was taken either just before or just after the first World War, and we are pretty sure it was taken at the old University of Queensland site at Gardens Point where QUT now is," Dr Gourlay said.

Prentice photographer Chris Stacey said the latest technology digital camera was used to copy the 900mm by 115mm picture.

"We used the Canon DCS1 which has the

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New video editing equipment proves simple to use

Multi-media developers, students, lecturers, budding video makers – in fact, anyone who needs video for any purpose, now have access to easy video editing equipment.

Prentice Centre's VideoVision has installed an Avid Cinema non-linear video editing system to replace its aged VHS tape editor.

Consulting producer Donald McAllister said Cinema was a computer-based video editing system which did not need all the dedicated VCRs and edit controllers which made tape-to-tape editing such a complicated process to learn.

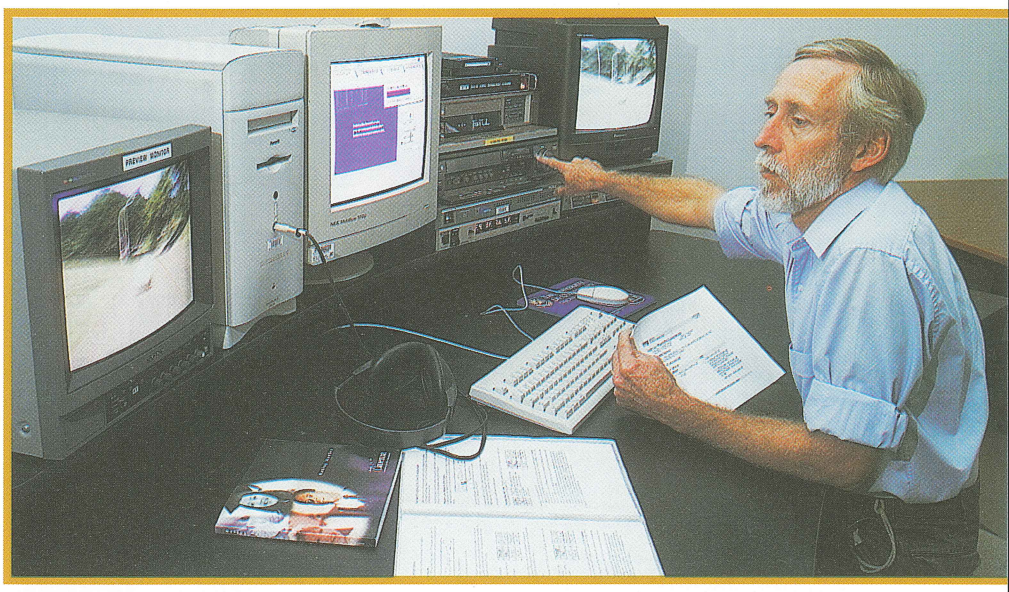
"The program is super easy to understand and can be learned by a computer-literate person within a few minutes," he said.

Video is played into the computer and converted to digital files.

The files can then be trimmed and assembled into a program using a process analogous to editing a word processor document.

The operator can change the linear order of the shots as much as required during the editing process.

"With tape editing, the physical tape medium forces you to put the shots onto tape one after the other in a chosen order that cannot then be changed short of re-editing the whole program," Mr McAllister said.



The Avid Cinema technology makes video-editing as simple as using a word processor.

Cinema uses a dedicated video processing and display card in a Macintosh Power PC to achieve real-time display of an edited program without the need to wait for processing of the video files.

The entire process happens in real time and any point within your program can be played or accessed instantly.

"Video is captured at quarter-screen resolution and interpolated back to full size for recording back on videotape," he said.

"Once the program is made it can be recorded back onto videotape or made into a number of digital formats compatible with CD, Powerpoint or WWW play-back."

Prentice has set its system up with an array of VCRs capable of using video formats from anywhere in the world and it can be used to convert between NTSC and PAL.

For education purposes, Cinema is available for hire as a self-use system for $50 per day or an operator can be provided at an extra $60 per hour.

Phone Donald McAllister on 3365 4359.

From page two

highest resolution available," he said.

"Because of the long format of the picture, we rephotographed it in four sections and then used Photoshop to put it back together and clean up the tears and marks."

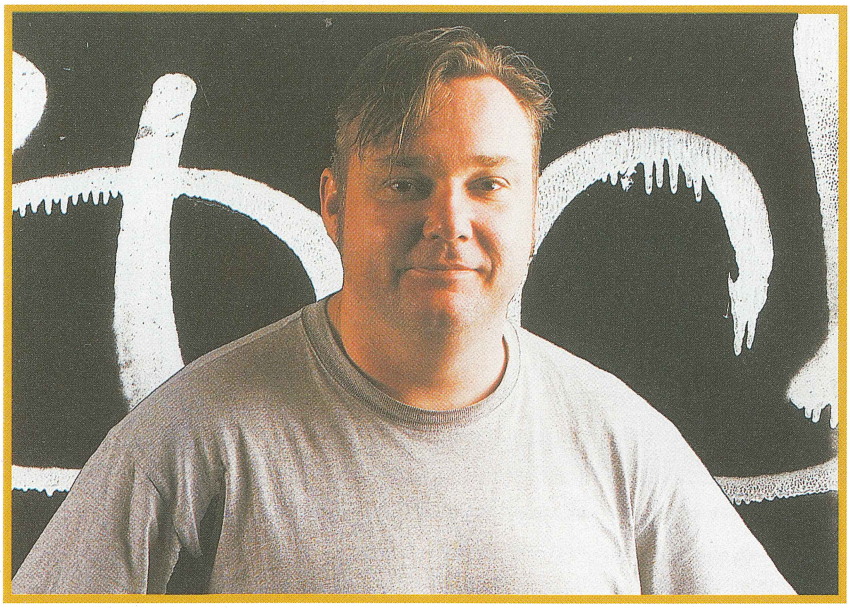
Dr Gourlay said he initially was reluctant to use digital imagery but he was delighted with the results.

"Although I've had lots of photography work done by Prentice, I've never used a digital image before, but Don (Thompson, a Prentice photographer) suggested it would be the best way to preserve the photo – he's done an excellent job."

If anyone knows why or when the photograph was taken, they should contact Dr Gourlay on 3365 3913 or 3300 1069.

Prentice Centre photographers offer a range of creative services. Phone 3365 1951.

Artwork commissioning lifts Carl's profile to new heights



Prentice Centre photographer Carl Warner has been commissioned for a major project.

Prentice Centre photographer and artist Carl Warner *(featured in the June edition of the Bulletin)* has been commissioned to provide 25 art works for the new Hong Kong Bank building in Queen Street.

Carl's last exhibition of industrial images at the University Art Museum in May will form the basis of the work for the bank.

"All of the works will be lens-based, post-industrial images, and will range from dropscreens to one-metre square photographic images," Carl said.

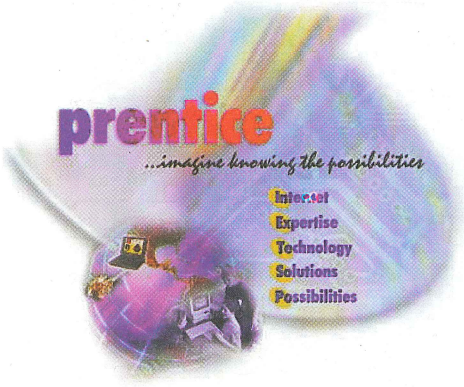
Carl will provide art for the foyer and each of the eight lifts. It is believed to be the only lens-based work by a contemporary artist in Australia to be used in a commercial setting.

The bank's architects viewed works in Brisbane's major galleries before Carl was short-listed and then named as the successful artist.

"It's certainly the biggest job for me so far," he said.

The work for the building, which was formerly owned by Colonial Mutual, will be finished by September 3.

To find out how Prentice can help with special presentations, contact Carl Warner on 3365 7561 or email c.warner@prentice.uq.edu.au



GATTON CLIENTS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE PRENTICE SERVICES

Wilber Williams from Prentice Network Development has assured Gatton internet and email clients the service would continue.

Mr Williams said Gatton clients had raised concerns about the continuation of the service but they were unfounded.

"We look forward to continuing to serve the Gatton community," he said.

New era for IT

From page one

Ms Meier said the agreement also covered second tier support of complex and difficult computing problems.

Mr Lamb said the rapid growth in computing technology was a major factor in the university's decision to enter into the Prentice agreement: "It represents significant savings for the university and adds many more services than the previous agreement."

He said the intensive negotiations were brought together by the commitment of Ms Meier in "steering through all the complexity".

The initial agreement, signed by University of Queensland's secretary and registrar Douglas Porter and Prentice Centre's director Graham Rees, lasts until June 2001.

MIRROR PROJECT GROWS

The AARNet Large Object Cache now mirrors almost 40 software sites.

Next time you are downloading large files, remember the cache can save you time and money *(see article in the April edition of the Prentice Bulletin).*

The top 15 software sites are:

1.....X11
2.....Redhat
3.....Planet Quake
4.....Debian
5.....FreeBSD
6.....ID games
7.....Simtel.Net
8.....PGP
9.....Cryptozilla
10.....RFC
11.....GNU
12.....Slackware
13.....Star Office
14.....NetBSD
15.....BTW

For more details, see http://mirror.aarnet.edu.au

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