

## On-line registration at UPEI

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 continue courses. Students will be able to access the system on the Internet by entering their student numbers and PIN numbers.

Through various other programs being installed with the system, students will be able to access their grades, individual class schedules, and the outcomes of academic audits. Students will also be able to examine courses they already have, as well as inquiring into requirements needed to obtain their major. These additional services will be offered slightly prior to the release of the on-line registration services.

The new system comes with a rather large price tag: \$100,000 to get the program up and running (including hardware and software), and roughly \$5,000 per year for maintenance fees. These num-

bers are excluding the work that will be done by "in house" staff.

The large investment has students wondering if the new system is worth it. Most students on campus seem quite pleased with registration going on-line, but many still have doubts.

"I don't really trust it," says Richard Haines, an education student. "The computers on campus aren't really reliable enough as it is. I can't trust registering on a computer that will crash in a few minutes anyway."

The question of how students will feel about having their grades, courses, majors, and class schedules posted in the Internet has also been raised. Granted, there will be codes blocking easy access to student files, but students may still feel unsafe knowing all of that information is on-line.

## Israeli ambassador arrives at UPEI

By RANDY MCDONALD

David Sultan, Israeli Ambassador to Canada, recently paid a courtesy visit to Charlottetown, taking the time to make an hour-long visit to UPEI.

The ambassador arrived at the President's Office at 1:45 pm, and paid a 15 minute courtesy visit to Vice President John Crossley.

Sultan -- born in Egypt in 1938 and taken by his parents to Israel following the Israeli War of Independence -- is a career diplomat, having served in Israeli embassies and consulates in Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, and Italy prior to his appointment as Israeli ambassador to Egypt in 1992. In 1996, he was appointed Israeli ambassador to Canada.

During his visit, Ambassador Sultan exchanged courtesies with UPEI, leaving open a possibility that UPEI could establish links with Israeli institutions of higher education in the same way that UPEI has established links with universities and governments in Australia and the United States.

Upon the completion of the ambassador's meeting with Crossley, he took part in a half-hour question and answer session with a dozen political science students, along with Political Science Department Chair Barry Bartmann and

Professor Henry Srbernick.

In the question and answer session, Ambassador Sultan responded to numerous questions about Israel's rapid development over the fifty years of its independence into a wealthy democracy, and about the progress of the Middle Eastern peace process between Israel and her Arab neighbours.

The ambassador also made many observations on the slow progress of the peace process between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, stating that the reluctance of Israel to cede land to the Palestinian Authority is due to the apparent lack of security produced by the transfers of land.

Sultan said that he believes that progress will continue to be made, if for no other reason that the desire of all parties in the Middle East to bring an end to the series of wars in the region.

"We have to have peace," he said. "If we don't have it now, then we will realize it a year or two later, after more people of died."

Canada and Israel have traditionally had friendly, though somewhat distant, relations since the founding of Israel in 1949. Though Canada has always supported the right of Israel to existence, Canada has limited its role in Middle Eastern politics to that of me-

diator and peacekeeper in the border regions between Israel and her Arab neighbours.

Trade with Israel has been slowly increasing since the signing of a Canada-Israel free trade agreement, though from a lower level. Canada has generally had a trade deficit with Israel, importing Israeli electronic equipment while exporting raw materials and foodstuffs.

The strongest connection between Israel and Canada is Canada's large Jewish community -- at more than three hundred thousand people, the Canadian Jewish community is the second-largest in the Western Hemisphere after that of the United States.

Since the foundation of Israel, it has played an important role in the community life of Canadian Jews, providing religious and education services for the Jewish community, especially in the main centres of Montréal and Toronto.

With the advent of general peace in the Middle East, relations between Canada and all of the countries of the Middle East, including Israel, seem set to expand rapidly, both on the level of inter-governmental relations and between Canadian and Middle Eastern institutions.

## The Cadre

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