



ROY ANTAL/The Leader-Post

Natural Resources Minister Ralph Goodale hits key to show a special video

Editing suite boon to film students

By COLLEEN SILVERTHORN
of The Leader-Post

Inside a room hidden in the maze of cubicles that comprise the university's film and video department, Gerald Saul hovered over a \$100,000 gift from the federal government.

"It's faster, it's larger, it allows you to do small effects," said the assistant film professor at the University of Regina, demonstrating the fading, cutting and patching features on the new digital editing suite.

The federal government paid for the editing suite and dished out another \$100,000 for a multi-media teaching centre in hopes of training and keeping Saskatchewan film and video students in the province.

Even as Natural Resources Minister Ralph Goodale spoke at the university

about the money film puts into the economy, several blocks away trucks lined College Avenue and Broad Street where crews shot a \$22-million movie.

Meanwhile, with just a couple of keyboard strokes at the small editing suite, Saul demonstrated how students can superimpose an image of a student's face on top of a fern, fade one image out and then delete everything with a keystroke.

That kind of speed means film student Brad Wilson, who watched Saul demonstrate the machine's moves, can shave weeks off the time it takes to edit a documentary.

"No more being here at midnight editing. That's the one thing that's been so common around here," said the fourth-year film student.

"Seven days a week, 24 hours a day you'd find students in here because you need every hour you can get."

Saul said the old editing system sometimes crashed, losing weeks of students' work. The digital system is more reliable, he said.

Students will also have a better chance of getting hired after they graduate, said Kevin DeWalt, chief executive officer of Regina's Minds Eye Pictures.

Of the about 350 film and video people DeWalt will employ by the end of September, about 40 come from outside of Saskatchewan.

Hiring workers from other provinces costs more because the provincial tax credit that pays for 35 per cent of worker's wages only applies to provincial residents.

Before the university received the digital editing suite, DeWalt said he preferred to hire untrained workers with job experience instead of U of R students.