NONLiNEAR video editing system:

SIGNIFICANt iMPROVEMENT

If you ask Clive Vanderburgh of Radio and Television Arts what he thinks Ryerson's greatest advancement in the last 11 years is, he doesn't hesitate. The addition of the non-linear suites in the Rogers Communications Centre has drastically changed the way courses are taught and the experience that students receive. "At one time you would say that we were capable of producing student (caliber) work, but not broadcast quality. Now there's no reason why a third or fourth year student couldn't do work that could be aired on the CBC, TVO or any other station."

Not only did the facilities receive a boost in quality, but quantity as well. "In October of 1998 there were only two places for students to do dissolves. A year and a half later there are now 11 places to do virtually everything for television. And In addition to that, it's now in a non-linear fashion with great effects." The editing suites consist of hardware that is the result of partnerships with Digital Processing Systems, Panasonic Canada and Intergraph Computers.

But beyond the facilities, Vanderburgh attributes much of Ryerson's success to the Rogers Communications Centre and its staff. "The RCC has a mandate to deal with new technology and forge bridges with manufacturers to allow the purchasing and donations that the schools wouldn't be able to get alone." The RCC is also counted on to act as a mediator between the schools (Computer Science, Image Arts, Journalism and RTA). It helps to bring consensus on issues such as purchasing decisions and long-term technological choices.

"The RCC arranges purchasing options so relevant technologies are made.

Clive Vanderburgh discusses nonlinear editing

Consistency is so important because then a knowledge base is built among faculty in all the schools. An expertise for use and repair is built that allows for co-operation between all parties. The technological support, knowledge bases, R&D and infrastructure are relied on by the schools for delivery of curriculum. The Rogers Communications Centre not only gives us a warning of where the industry is going, it also helps to support and implement those things."

The Rogers Communications Centre has been given the freedom to create vision and take risks in the future of technology. "Taking risks can't be underestimated because while people don't like to take risks, change is inevitable. Part of the RCC's mandate has been to take risks and become involved in things that may or may not work. A forward-thinking environment attracts good people and that stimulates and motivates others to feel comfortable and take risks."

But as Vanderburgh stresses, the staff also handles all the little things that are often taken for granted, but essential to the building's success. "The day-to-day support issue is incredibly important. You run post-production facilities that are used by around 1500 students. There's daily problem-solving, managing, administration; it's not sexy but it's fundamental. It's a thankless job but there's a tremendous amount of energy spent so the toilets flush and the heat works."

For Clive Vanderburgh, the Rogers Communications Centre is integral to the success of the schools it supports. "The greatest thing is the symbiotic relationship shared with a common support and need for each other. Together we're proactive in helping drive curriculum so it remains current."