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Tom Ary, interviewee

Karen Cedzo, interviewer

Series: University focus

1981?

The Municipal Utilities System offered to replace the outdated Centrex telephone system the university acted prompted to reach an agreement. The university consultant is Tom Scott-Ary of Communication Concepts recommended installation of the SL1 telephone system. Scott Ary said it is essentially a computer. It is programmable. It is like a multi-button key telephone. It offers a wide range of features. He said it will revolutionize the way the University of Alaska uses its telephone system. He talked about direct billing for long distance telephone calls. They will be touch phones instead of rotary phones. He explained features which will speed up everyday calling such as a redialing feature after busy signals. It took over a year to decide on a system and design. Things have been moving rapidly since an agreement was signed in August between MUS and UAF. At present they are planning to make the cut over to the new system during the upcoming Christmas break. Ary has been on campus working in the Bunnell Building. He has been talking with people about which telephone they will get and explaining how the new telephone system will work. Installation of the SL1 will provide the university with its own exchange. The prefix 474 will be for university lines only. And those on the 479 exchange will experience greatly improved service. Users will not longer have to compete with university employees to make and receive calls.

Karen Cedzo reports on the campus calendar and activities.