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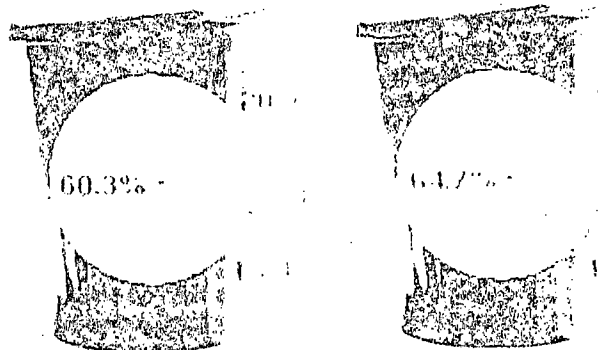
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Adult Literacy and New Technologies

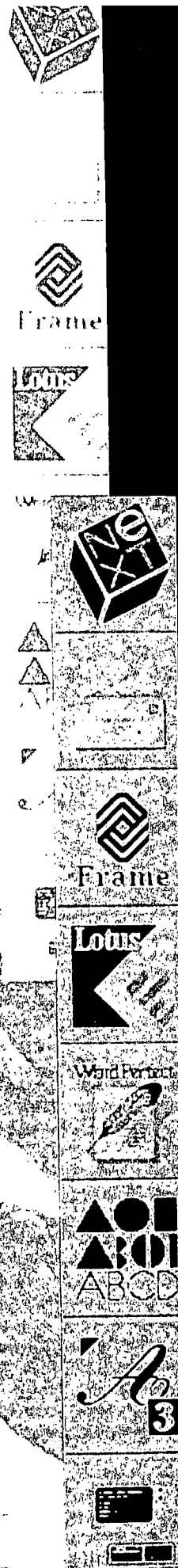
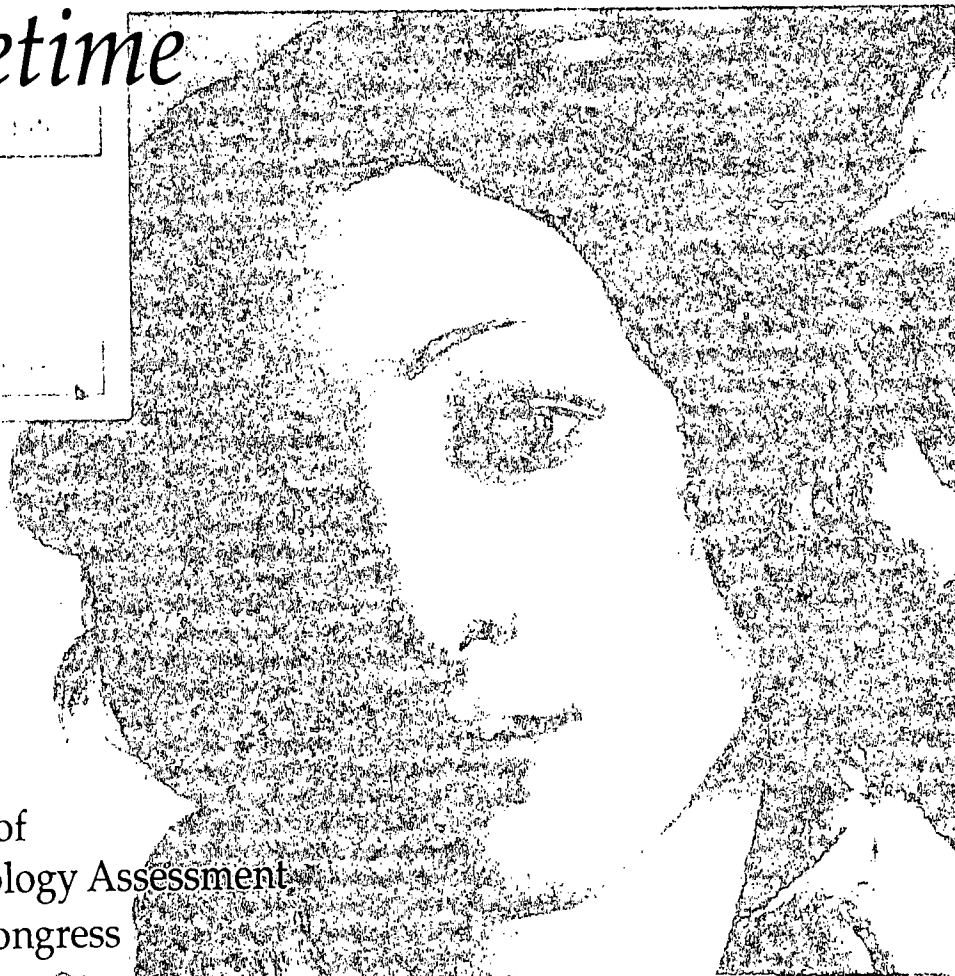
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**STATE OF GEORGIA****OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR****ATLANTA 30334****Zell Miller**
GOVERNOR**Chuck Reece**
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS**DRAFT****PRESS ADVISORY****PRESS ADVISORY**For immediate release
September 17, 1993Contact: Chuck Reece
(404) 651-7774**Governor Zell Miller Demonstrates Georgia's New Statewide
Distance Learning Network**

ATLANTA — Governor Zell Miller today demonstrated the first large-scale use of Georgia's distance learning network, a \$50 million statewide telecommunications highway that has expanded the traditional classroom to include new ways of teaching, such as a nursing student in Waycross who took courses from a professor at Valdosta State University. Georgia's new network is called GSAMS, the Georgia Statewide Academic and Medical System.

While Governor Miller was in Atlanta at Henry W. Grady High School, the other participants in today's live, interactive demonstration were actually located in six other sites: Augusta Technical Institute, Valdosta State University, Carver High School in Columbus, Georgia Southern University, Macon Technical Institute and the University of Georgia.

"No other state has invested as much in distance learning as has Georgia," Governor Miller said. "Distance learning can profoundly change the way rural Georgians live and get an education. Many rural school systems simply do not have the critical mass of students or the tax base to be able to offer enrichment courses like calculus, physics or foreign languages. But distance learning can change that because the size of the classroom is no longer limited by the walls that surround it. Telecommunications has put the teacher in dozens of places at the same time."

—more—

GSAMS

Add one

In today's demonstration, Governor Miller interacted with and asked questions of teachers and students who have used distance learning in its pilot stage, and they shared the dreams of what the system could do with those who have yet to use it.

Georgia's distance learning network is the most comprehensive of any state in the nation. By the end of 1993, more than 100 sites will be on the network.

The funds for the distance learning network came from the Governor's Distance Learning and Telecommunications Act of 1992. The bill also provided for the creation of another use of the network, called Telemedicine, which experts in the field consider to be the most sophisticated of all the telemedicine networks already in operation. Telemedicine uses the same technology as distance learning, but allows doctors at urban hospitals to examine patients hundreds of miles away, to read their X-rays and even listen to their heartbeats via electronic stethoscopes. More than 20 telemedicine sites will be on the network by the end of 1993.

During 1994, the total number of distance learning and telemedicine sites on the GSAMS network will be expanded to more than 400.