

Computer system keeps up with job trends

Career info, data too costly for University

By MARTHA BLISS
Of the Emerald

For the bewildered freshman or the still-undeclared senior, what could be more welcome than a computer spewing forth reams of up-to-date information on 95 per cent of Oregon's employment? Oddly enough, such a service is headquartered at the University and available to just about everyone in Oregon except the university student.

The Career Information System (CIS) is a statewide interagency project which gathers the latest data available on occupations and career trends in Oregon. That data is then checked, reviewed and processed into a massive computer.

The components of CIS are designed to permit access to this computer-stored information via teletypewriter terminals and through a needle-sort

system (a deck of hundreds of four-by-nine-inch cards with printed information). Some of the information is also bound in book form.

Besides offering job descriptions of 228 occupations, CIS gives preparation advice for each career as well as information on nearly all of Oregon's postsecondary educational programs and institutions. It also matches an individual's interests, aptitudes and abilities with suggested careers when fed personal information on that individual.

"The information is up-dated all year long," explains Maggie Burton, a CIS research associate. She says the system receives career information constantly from actual employers, state agencies and labor unions. At the latest, CIS users receive data that is six months old. In contrast, Burton

says most national data is about one and a half years old when it is published.

A number of schools, institutions and government agencies throughout Oregon have bought terminal access to CIS since it first started six years ago. This year, nearly 180,000 persons are expected to use CIS at its 400 terminal settings. Users include students in various junior and senior high schools and all 13 Oregon community colleges; students at Lewis and Clark College, Eastern Oregon State College and Willamette University; inmates at the Oregon State Penitentiary; and persons at various social service and government agencies.

University students have no easy access to CIS, however, because the University has not bought its subscription, which CIS research associate John

Clyde estimates would be "no more than \$5,000 a year."

Clyde says the Offices of Academic Advising and Student Services tell him the University has no money for a CIS subscription. "It comes down to finance," he says. "It also comes down to priorities."

Clyde proposes two solutions to the financial roadblock standing between CIS access and University students: either several departments should pool their resources and purchase a CIS subscription together, or the students themselves should buy it out of student body funds like Lewis and Clark students did.

Burton offers still another proposal for financing a subscription: the Oregon State System of Higher Education should buy it at a group rate for all its campuses.

Until the University purch-

ases a CIS subscription, Burton says students are free to use the terminals at Lane Community College.

Recently, CIS associates looked at terminal usage by Lane County high school students since the beginning of the 1975-76 academic year and compiled a list of the ten occupations most requested among the 4,100 student inquiries for information.

The ten occupations were in order, truck driver, flight attendant, veterinarian, law enforcement officer, model, fish and wildlife specialist, pilot and flight engineer, elementary and secondary school teacher, lawyer and nurse.

Founded on a federal grant, CIS is now a self-supporting research project. Oregon is the first to have such a program, and now other states are setting up similar ones.

Anti-bias rules: State board to hear them again

By LORA CUYKENDALL
of the Emerald

"Better than nothing," is the way the anti-discrimination rules and grievance procedures developed by the State Board of Higher Education are being described by the University and community groups that have been watching their progress over the last several months.

Those rules will come before the board for probably the final time Tuesday at its regular monthly meeting at the University of Portland. The board will be discussing a revised set of rules developed to comply with an Oregon law prohibiting discrimination in educational programs.

"After all this time, we're glad to

see them adopting some affirmative action rules," says Margie Hendricksen, Eugene lawyer and president of the Oregon Women's Political Caucus.

Efforts by the women's caucus, along with the ASUO and Alert, a handicapped students' organization, convinced a legislative committee last March that rules adopted by the board in January weren't adequate. The groups drafted a 22-page set of alternate discrimination rules and a 9-page suggested grievance procedure, and many of their suggestions are included in the board's revised rules.

"We're happy now to see they've adopted a lot of the suggestions we gave to them," says Hendricksen.

Although the rules being presented Tuesday have won hesitant approval of the women's caucus and the ASUO, Hendricksen says the support is not wholehearted.

"There are still some areas that we don't feel are adequate," she

said. "The language used in the rules governing athletics does not insure that programs will not still be discriminatory." She said the caucus wanted the rules to insure that male and female athletics would receive more equitable funding.

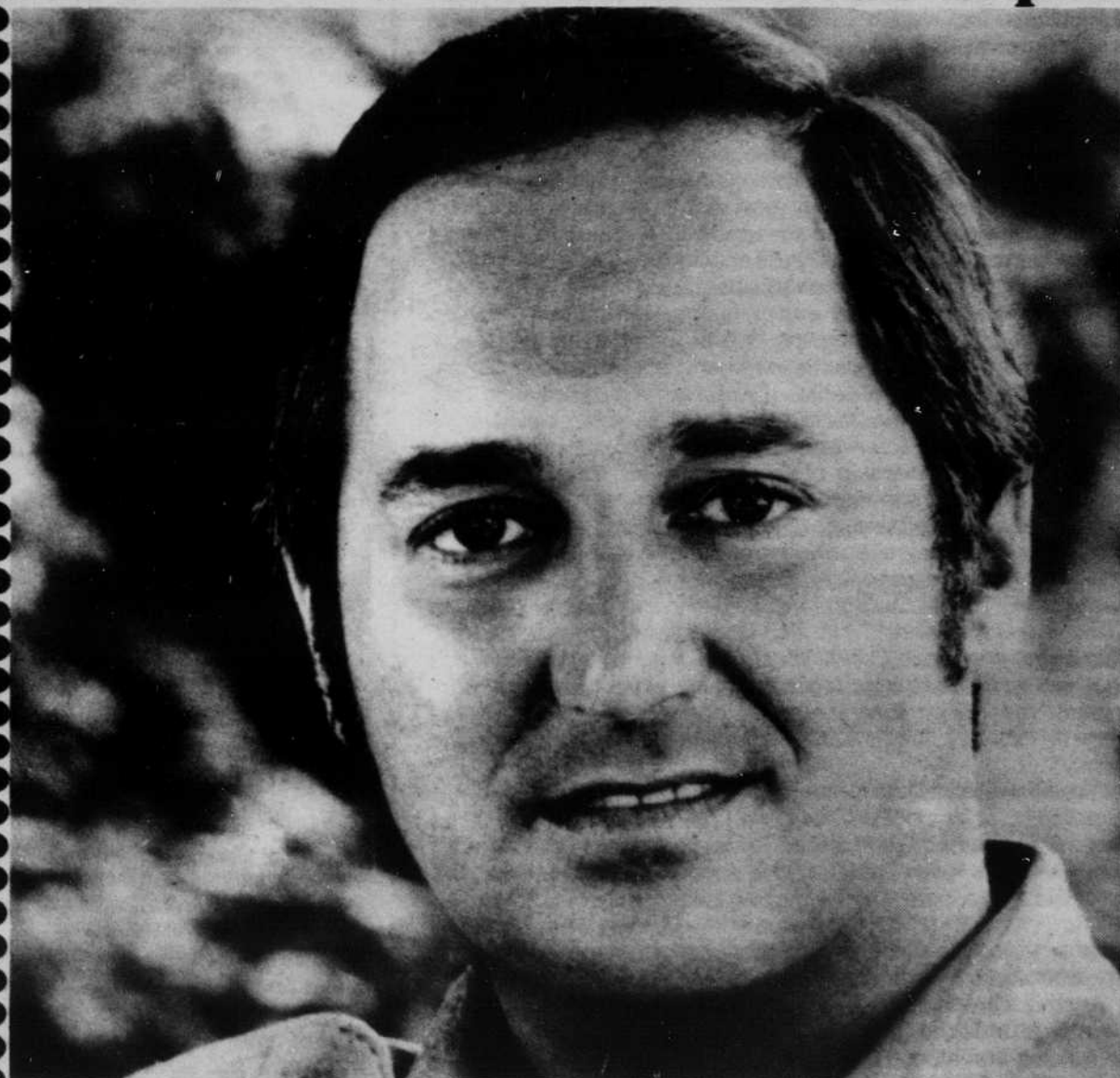
Hendricksen said the caucus is also unhappy with the grievance procedure suggested by the board. "It needs to include specific guarantees that enough due process is followed to insure a fair hearing," she says.

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