

# Electronic news room arrives at Emerald

By MELODY WARD  
Of the Emerald

This story is virtually untouched by human hands.

With the exception of a process known as paste-up, the Emerald is now produced completely electronically. We've been making another technological jump — one that will speed the process of assembling information into the form of a newspaper as much as did the switch from hot to cold type (offset printing). It's been frustrating, but the recently installed, \$58,000 electronic newsroom is already showing signs of rewards.

The NEWS II system, which consists of 10 video display terminals (vdts) and two sub-systems, has been in varying degrees of operation for the past two weeks.

"It'll be well worth the investment," says Editor Tom Wolfe. "It gives student journalists a chance to work in a completely modern newsroom."

Pencils, tape, staples — all essential elements in the editing

## ESCAPE names new coordinator

Next school year will be a transition period for ESCAPE, an alternative education program, says its new director.

"Next year is going to be a year with a lot of new experiences," says Jackie Stearns, who was hired as ESCAPE director last week. "It's going to be a year of falling down and getting back up again."

ESCAPE stands for Every Student Caring About Personalized Education.

One of the hardest "falls" is the loss of Judy Sanders, the founder and faculty adviser to ESCAPE, says Stearns, adding that a new adviser will be hired by September.

Stearns has been involved with ESCAPE for two years, serving as a volunteer, division head, registration and recruitment coordinator and resource coordinator.

"It (ESCAPE) constantly has new things for me to learn about," she says. "I think next year will be full of surprises."

ESCAPE provides students with the opportunity for credit through education and community services, such as working with area schools or social services.

process days ago — are now virtually useless. Their replacements are specialized keys and a combination electric blackboard video game that occasionally demonstrates signs of intelligence higher than the person manipulating it.

The adjustment to the electronic system, while smoother than anticipated, has caused its share of headaches for news, advertising and production staff members.

Zap. An 80-line story destined for the photo-typesetter gets rerouted by a misfired command and ends up in oblivion, completely beyond redemption — two hours worth of copy has flashed into non-existence. The writer, faced with a suddenly blank slate, leaves the room to gather her thoughts.

Punch the wrong keys in the wrong sequence, and suddenly

the vdt screen is pulsating rhythmically, like a white-on-black rectangular heart-attack.

But once familiar with the workings of the system, reporters and editors find the writing and production process to be greatly streamlined.

"Once I stopped being intimidated by these things I found them to be a lot of fun," says associate editor Keli Osborn. "They make the writing and editing processes easier."

The system should pay for itself within two years, says advertising manager Carl Bryant, due to a reduced production staff and the increased capacity to handle production orders.

Here's how it works: reporters or advertising staff members type their copy into the computer terminal. Several editors later, the story is "sent back" via computer to the production

department. A new interface, once completed, will marry the vdt computer with the photo-typesetter, and stories will move directly from the newsroom to paste-up.

Ten years ago June on 23, the Emerald switched to offset printing. It was the most sophisticated technological advance available to a paper at the time. Still affiliated with the

University and the School of Journalism, the Emerald required the permission of University Pres. Charles Johnson to make the contractual arrangements. In 1971, the Emerald incorporated as an independent student newspaper and established a board of directors comprised of staff, ASUO, faculty and community members.

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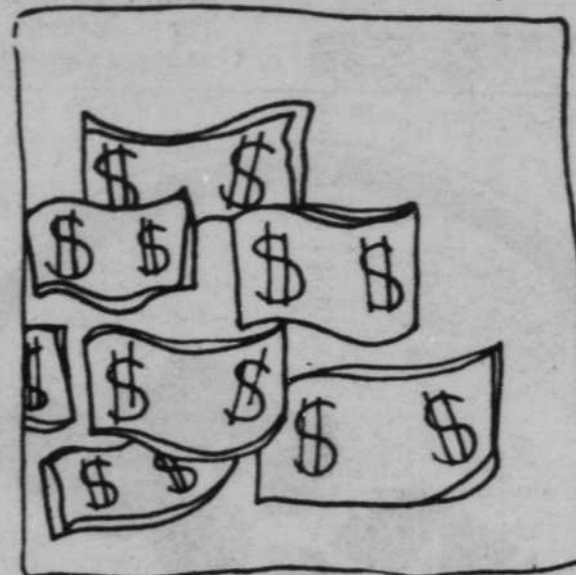
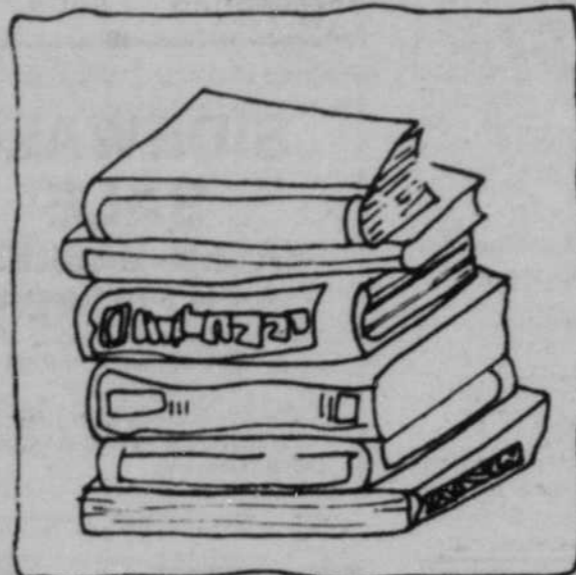
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