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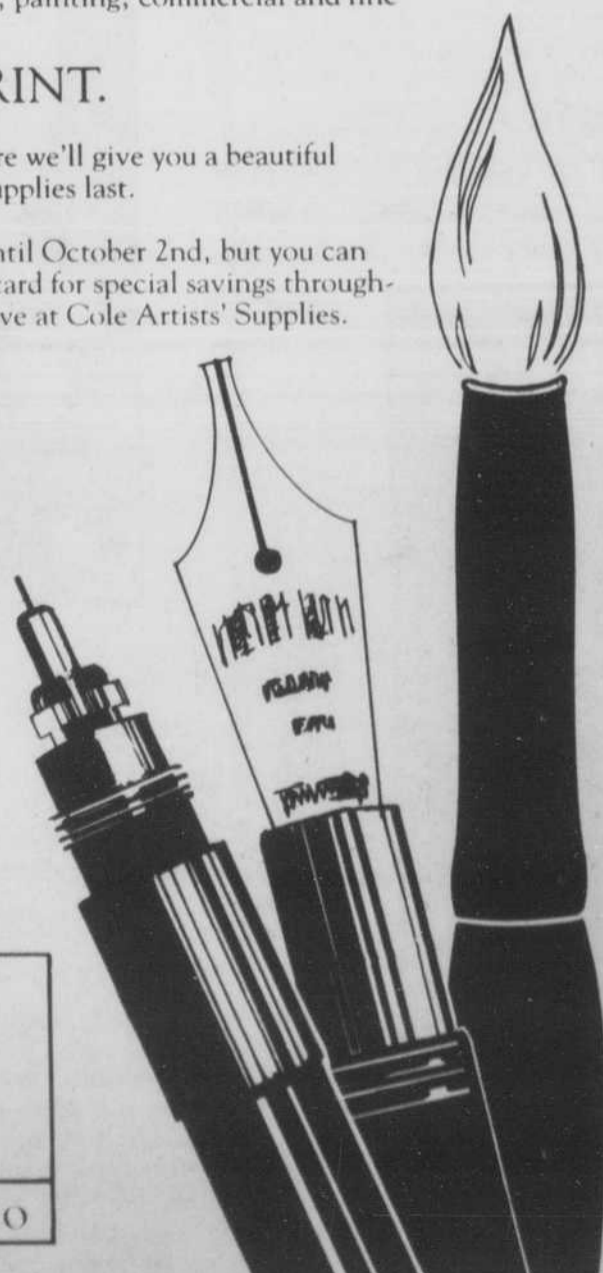
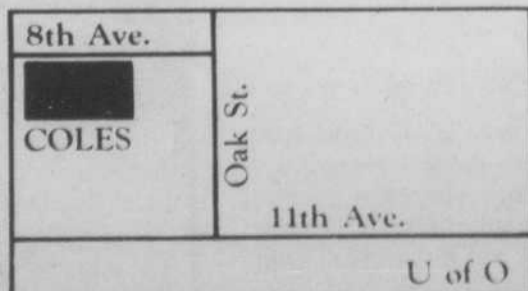
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## Funds buy terminals for computer study

By Marna Broekhoff  
Of the Emerald

In the face of budget cut-backs and a glutted job market, computer science stands out as the one field at the University with a resourceful budget and significantly strong job prospects for graduates. Computer science graduates generally have little trouble finding employment in business or industry, or even in education.

In addition, students in many other fields ranging from architecture and communications to the hard sciences can greatly increase their employment prospects by gaining a working knowledge of computers.

"The demand for computer programmers and systems analysts has long been well ahead of the supply," says Stephen Hedetniemi, head of the University's computer and information science department.

This academic department offers courses in both the theory and practice of computing, which apply toward baccalaureate and advanced degrees. Since the early 1960's the University has also managed the Computing Center, a service unit which fills various computing needs of students, faculty, and the community at large.

Unfortunately, in recent years the computer science department has not been able to keep up with the dramatic upsurge of student demand for course and major programs.

Nearly one tenth of all new students this year are considering computer science as their major field of study. While enrollment in computer science has more than doubled in the last six years, the number of faculty has remained the same. Consequently, admission standards for upper division courses have become stricter. The long wait for students wanting to log-on to terminals has become all-too-common.

The situation will improve thanks to nearly \$250,000 allocated for new

equipment and instructional salaries in computer and information science. The funding is derived primarily from the University of Oregon Foundation. Other funds come from money redistributed internally by the Office of Academic Affairs.

With the funds the computer science department will be able to buy two VAX11/750 computer systems. One will be used for instructional purposes and the other for research. Each one can handle one million bytes of memory, which is 1,000 times the secondary memory capacity of the Apple II computers now being used, says Hedetniemi.

The department will also add 10 more Apple II computers to its existing cluster of 10, which were installed last year.

As a result, the department will now be able to serve about 500 students per year, an increase of almost two-thirds. The number of faculty still remains a major limiting factor in offering entry level courses, says Hedetniemi, but the department hopes to add several more positions next year.

The new equipment in the computer science department should help ease the crowds in the Computing Center. The center itself boasts two large scale computer systems which can support a variety of academic, research, and administrative needs.

In 1980, the center acquired an IBM 4341, which provides information processing services to the Registrar, Admissions, Financial Aid and other administrative offices. At the same time, it also acquired the DEC 1091, a terminal-oriented system, used primarily for instruction and research. This system has a total of 350 terminals available for use on campus.

The center uses the traditional programming languages, such as FORTRAN and COBOL, as well as a number of special applications, including SNOBOL, PASCAL and BASIC.

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