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sity had discussed purchasing the System 38, which costs approximately \$200,000, Provost Dick Hill says he is unsure how seriously the University is considering it.

"We certainly don't rule out the possibility of a database system," Hill says.

Hill says the University's computer registration program must be compatible with financial aid and billing.

"What does go on line shouldn't complicate your current existence," he says. "If you're ever going to have computer preregistration, you can't develop a program that is incompatible with financial aid and the billing process."

The University also is looking into purchasing an existing software program from another university and adapting the system to fit the University's registration needs, but Hill says that plan is costly.

"Other state institutions have had serious problems with doing that — the cost involved in using an outside company probably inhibits that alternative," he says.

In 1978 the University was given the preregistration programs, software documentation and summary of the University of Texas at Austin's system. The program was developed on an IBM 360/50,

the same computer the University was using at the time.

The software was incompatible and could not be adapted to the University's computer.

The University has come a long way towards developing a common understanding of what computers can do and how they can serve administrative needs, Hill says.

Two main stumbling blocks in the preregistration process are the lack of a machine-readable time schedule and an outdated student information file, says University Registrar Wanda Johnson.

Johnson says no money and no manpower are preventing work on these projects.

She says the University tried to implement a demand analysis in 1968 similar to one scheduled to take place spring term. It failed due to lack of student participation and good information.

"It left a bad taste in people's mouths," says Johnson.

The demand analysis is designed to provide information on how many students want to take each class but won't schedule the students into their preferred classes.

That experience has contributed to the University's reluctance to implement a program stage by stage, Johnson said.

General scholarship award aid available for qualified students

By Aleta Zak
Of the Emerald

More than 300 University students were \$200 to \$1,200 richer this academic year through general scholarships awarded to help pay for their college education.

And any undergraduate or graduate University student has a chance at these general scholarships for next year, says associate financial aid director Carol Richard.

Completed applications for next year's awards, including faculty recommendations and transcripts of grades from other colleges, are due in the financial aid office by March 1.

The awards, which totaled more than \$200,000 this year, came mostly from funds established in the name of individuals or companies who have donated money to the University.

Richard and a special scholarship selection committee, which is composed of about a dozen faculty members and two students, will decide who gets the awards.

After the deadline, the committee begins sorting through the hundreds of applications to determine which students are most qualified to receive the awards.

"It's a hard-working committee from anyone's standpoint," says Richard. "They really have to make some difficult decisions. I mean, how are you going to draw the line in borderline cases?"

After reviewing all the documents, the committee assigns a rating to each applicant based on academic merit and returns the applications to the financial aid office.

Richard determines exactly how much money is available for the coming year, noting which scholarships are based on financial need as well as merit. She then makes specific awards to the highest-rating students.

Out of 651 students who applied last year, 318 received scholarships.

This year's lucky few will receive money from 34 different funds ranging from the Coca-Cola Scholarship to the Joseph Kinsman Starr Scholarship.

Much of the award money comes from investments earned from the original cash donation, says Richard. The Starr and Leon Culbertson Scholarships are the University's two most profitable funds.

Awards based only on academic achievement vary from \$200 to \$500, while those based on achievement as well as financial need can range from \$600 to \$1,200, Richard says. She says more scholarships specify financial need than academic merit alone.

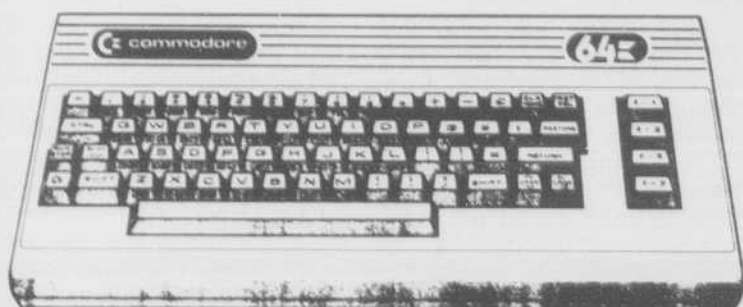
Many departments and professional schools offer their own scholarships, Richard adds. Students must apply separately to their individual major departments for these awards, which may be based on more specific criteria.

About 120 department scholarships are available for the 1983-84 academic year, and a few more will be awarded to students from specific geographic areas.

For more information on these scholarships, contact your major department or consult the University scholarship and award folder available in the financial aid office.

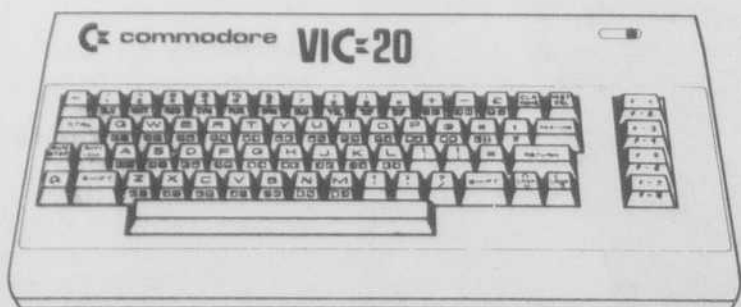
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Good-bye TXT (Nathaniel), noisy tape-punch, pink tape and pesky little dots, wish we could say we were going to miss you — but we can't. May you rest in peace.

