

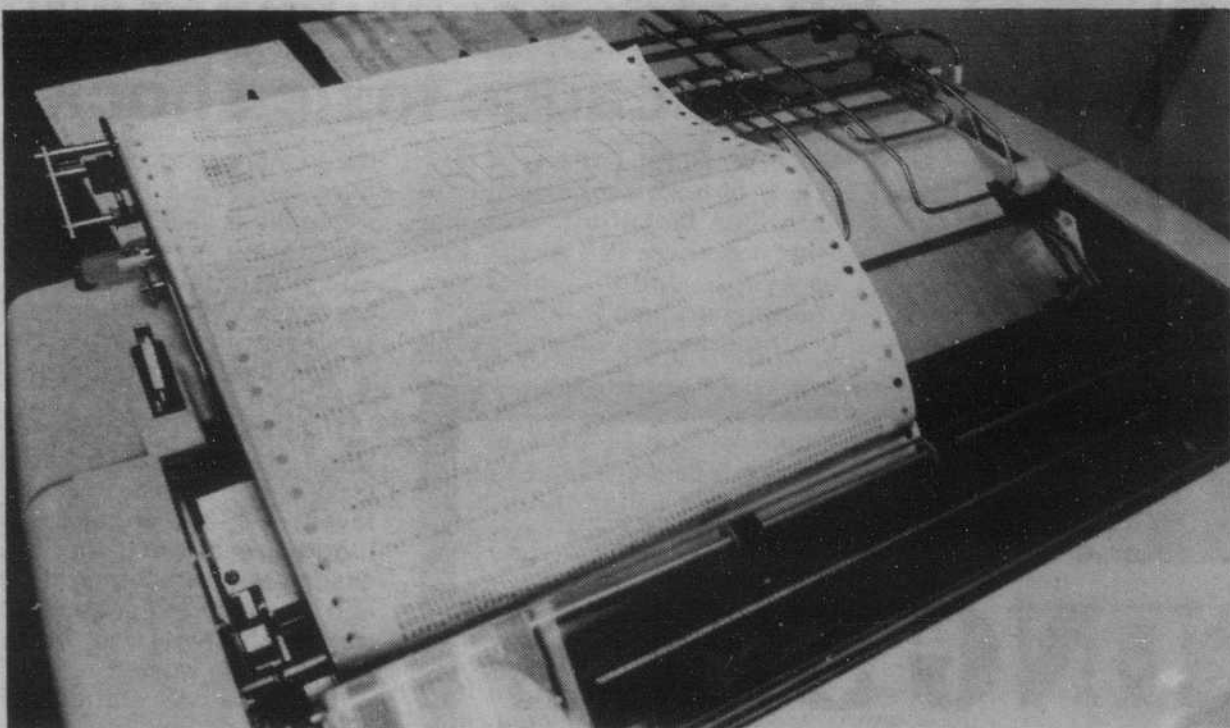


Photo by Dave Kao

The health center computer system will save the University \$18,000 this year.

Computer saves bucks

By Aleta Zak
Of the Emerald

The computer age is touching more and more University departments, and the student Health Center is no exception.

In 1981, the center transferred all its accounting records to a computerized system. The center paid \$8,000 for four video display terminals and two line printers, replacing a full-time accounting clerk.

Carl Schwartz, Health Center administrator, says the system saved enough money in labor and personnel costs during its first operational year to pay for all the equipment. This year, the computers will save the center about \$18,000, he estimates.

The system operates on a nationally standardized code system that gives numbers to all medical and laboratory procedures.

At night, two keypunch operators store the day's information in the computer. Students can walk into the Health Center and get a printout of all their charges for medical services for the entire year, says Schwartz.

Darlene Morss, who processes health center insurance claims, says the system changed the entire scope of her job.

"I don't have more free time, because I have so many other different jobs to do now," says Morss. "But I really like the new system."

The center used to take three months to send out a bill to an insurance company, Schwartz says. This often caused problems for

students who found their registration packets held because their health center bills hadn't been paid.

"After they got flagged down at registration, they had to make special arrangements with us and the business office," says Schwartz.

Along with making the accounting department more efficient, the center has used the computer as a management tool to determine how to cut operating costs.

Two years ago, Schwartz used the computer to study use patterns at the infirmary.

The results showed some infirmary services could be combined with the regular center services, so the infirmary was closed.

The most important job of the computer has been saving money to keep health costs down, says Schwartz.

If most college health centers don't switch to computer records within the next five years, their costs won't be competitive with other hospitals and clinics, he says.

The University's health center accounting records system is the first in the nation to go completely computerized on this level, Schwartz says.

Schwartz says the University system will become a model for other colleges. For example, officials from other college health centers, including Princeton University's and the University of Colorado's, have called Schwartz about the system.

Chinese exchange positions open

Wanted: two people who have training or experience teaching English and some knowledge and experience of China to participate in an informal exchange program with Xian Medical College in China.

Mike Fish, a University Chinese professor, and Mary

Ann Burris, a University English professor, kicked off the informal exchange during 1981-82. Two University graduate students are filling the professors' University positions.

The students selected for the posts probably will be the only

foreigners living on the campus.

Interested people should apply by April 15 and should provide a resume of their education and experience and a listing of references. Applications can be turned in at the Asian Studies department.

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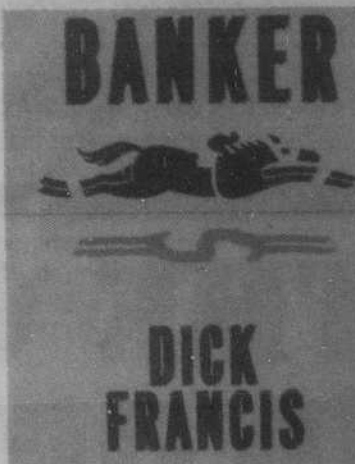
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