Demand grows for computer access

By Randy MacDonald

Of the Emerald

Students don't have to be computer science majors to gain access to computers on campus. Computer time is available to all students at several campus and off-campus locations.

Although a wide variety of microcom-puters are available on campus for student use, demand for the machines is increasing, thus the amount of "open access" time available to students is decreasing, said Curtis Lind, director of the Continuation Center's microcomputer department.

Demand for the units is becoming a problem now that microcomputers are available to students for extra-curricular purposes, Lind said. The computers are primarily for instructional use, he said.

For \$25, students can spend 60 hours of time on the more than 100 microcomputers owned and operated by the Continuation Center and have access to a variety of programs including Wordstar (a. word-processor program) and Lotus 1-2-3 (an accounting program). This year is the first year a fee has been charged.

The center's goal is to become self-supporting, Lind said. The microcomputers were initially made available free of charge to assess student interest in the program. Now that it is obvious students are interested, the fee is necessary to make the program economically feasible.

Lind said more than 900 students enroll in computer-use courses each term. The Continuation Center tries to assure they will have enough access to the computers for their homework by staying open nights and weekends.

Lind said he is anxious for the EMU to open its microcomputer room because he hopes it will relieve some of the demand for the Continuation Center's computers.

The EMU's computer room will be run by the Recreation Center, said Roy Singer, a Recreation Center employee. The room is still under construction, and will probably be open this summer, he said.

The new computer room will make at least 30 computers available to students, said Dexter Simmons, director of the Recreation Center.

The Continuation Center has microcomputer labs in Condon School, Room 210 Lawrence Hall, and shares facilities with the College of Business Administration (CBA) on the third floor of Gilbert hall.

Both CBA students and Continuation Center students may use the Gilbert facilities, but the \$25 fee is required unless a student is enrolled in a computer course, said Dave Fergus, personnel director at the Gilbert computer facility.

The Gilbert facility has four labs: an Apple Macintosh lab, an IBM PC lab, an HP150 lab, and a "mainframe" lab that has terminals connected to the DEC 1090 and IBM 4240 mainframe computers in the Computing Center.

Most of the CBA's computers were donated by companies like Apple and Hewlett-Packard, Fergus said. The IBM PC's in the Gilbert facility are owned by the Continuation Center.

Word processors like Wordstar enable students to write and edit essays and other work, Fergus said. Programs like Lotus 1-2-3 enable students to do a complete spreadsheet analysis very rapidly. he said.

Fergus is also very proud of the highquality graphics equipment in the HP lab. He said many architecture and business students use the equipment, which can print in four colors and reproduce a number of charts and graphs.

"It is becoming essential that a University have a good computer system." Fergus said. "A lot of students are required to possess strong computer skills when entering the job market. That skill may just be what pushes them over the edge in employer desirability.

Access to the DEC 1090 and the IBM 4240 Mainframe computers of the University Computer Center is available to all students for a \$75 deposit, said Paula Reed, director of accounting for the

Twenty computer terminals are open for student use in Room 202 in the Computer Center except when classes are scheduled in the room. Terminals are also located in the dorms and in the Amazon and Westmoreland housing complexes.

Computers are also available offcampus. Kinko's copies rents computer time on IBM PC's for \$5 an hour, with a \$3 minimum charge. It now has a laser printer available that can be used with the machines, at 20 cents a page.

Bit by Bit, another off-campus company, will rent microcomputers by the month. Apple Macintosh (512k) computers rent for \$285 a month, and IBM PC's (256k) are \$175 a month. The store will rent a Brother letter-quality printerfor \$50 a month, and an Epson RX80 daisy-wheel printer for \$30 a month. ..

Et al.

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May 13: Klamath Falls School District no. 1 and Union High School District no. 2 (educ/spec educ positions).

May 13-14: Peace Corps recruiting office (volunteer); Rubensteins (sales/mktg).

May 14: Northwest Paper Fibers, Weyerhauser div. (plant

May 14-15: U.S. Navy recruiting district (officers programs/nuclear power

May 15: Eagle Point School District no. 9 (lang arts/sci/math-

May 16: Jeld-Wen, Inc. (production mgmt trainee).

Sign-up space is still available for the following recruiters:

May 6: Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (bank examiner trainee), group meeting only, 12-1:30 p.m., Room 111 EMU; Portland School District (elem/spec' educ/secondary all areas), group meeting only, 1-2 p.m. in Room 108 EMU.

May 7: Economics Lab (sales trainee).

May 8: State Farm Insurance Company (claims rep/underwriters trainee/mgmt trainee); Tigard School District (educ/special educ positions). group meeting at 4 p.m. in Century Room A EMU.

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