

Computer Lounge offers variety of hardware, software

By Steve Hoenisch
Of the Emerald

The Computer Lounge, which is located in the basement of EMU, offers a variety of computer-oriented services ranging from passes for computer use to desktop publishing, and is available to University students, faculty and staff.

The lounge provides the user with a personal computer and accessibility to different types of software for word processing, data processing, graphics design, computer languages, and even games. Computer lab assistants are on hand to assist unfamiliar users with any problems they may encounter. As an added benefit, the lounge periodically holds introductory sessions to familiarize users with computers and software.

The lounge has a variety of computers available including 28 Macintosh-Pluses, 12 IBM Compatible Kaypros, 2 IBM compatible Leading Edges, 4 sophisticated Apple 2es, a Vec-

trix graphic computer, plus 4 terminals for the campus information exchange. In total, the lounge has 47 computer terminals available for use.

To match the 47 individual pieces of computer hardware, the lounge has over 45 different software programs ranging from word processing and graphics to languages and games.

For business students, the lounge is stocked with spreadsheets and integrated packages for creating budgets, business graphics, and bar charts. For example, the software Lotus 1,2,3 is available for use with the IBM compatible Kaypro computers. Also available for use with the Kaypro is Symphony, Framework and ThinkTank. Spreadsheets for the Macintosh include MacProject, Multiplan and Jazz. For the Apple 2e, a program called Excel is in stock. Under the label data base, the lounge carries D-Base 3 and MicroSoft Word. Such programs can be used for creating

business documents.

The lounge has a diverse stock of word processing software for use with the IBM compatible computers including Word Perfect, Word Star, and Microsoft Word. With the above software easily accessible from the system's hard disk, the Kaypro computers offer the ultimate word processing experience.

For use with the Macintosh computers, MacWrite is the primary word processing program. Backing it up is the MacSpell-Plus program which provides a way to check and correct spelling errors. Also available for word processing is the MacLighting program.

There is a vast array of graphics programs available for the Mac, including MacDraw, MacPaint, and MacDraft. Graphics software such as Dazzle Draw and Koala Pad Painter is also on hand for the Apple 2e computers.

The Macintosh personal computer coupled with the lounge's

two Apple Lazerwriter-Plus printers, which are located in the publishing room, provide an ideal combination for what is commonly referred to as desktop publishing, according to Roy Singer, manager of the Computer Lounge.

Using a Macintosh-compatible program called Page Maker, it is possible to design and produce a newsletter or even an entire newspaper. Page Maker enables one to combine documents from other Mac programs such as MacWrite and MacDraw, thereby creating a combination of essays and graphics in layout form. After using Page Maker, one needs only go to the printers with text in hand to publish the work.

"After a few hours of practice, Page Maker is an easy program to use to publish letters, advertisements, and newspapers," according to Dave Bickford, a student manager at the lounge.

The Computer Lounge offers publishing services including typesetting for papers with the lazer printer, plotter or color-jet printing, and graphic design for flyers and posters.

Lazer printing on either the Macintosh-compatible Apple Lazerwriter-Plus or the Hewlett-Packard Lazer Jet, which is used in conjunction with the Kaypros, costs 25 cents per page. A lazer printing pass is obtainable for \$5 and is good for 25 pages, thus decreasing the cost of printing to 20 cents a page. "At a low cost, you can get typeset quality documents that are professional in appearance" by using the lazer

printers, Bickford said.

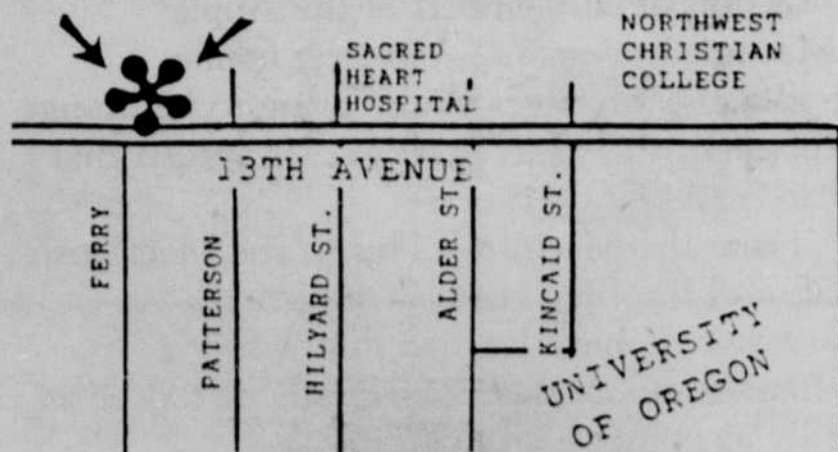
In addition to the four lazer printers, the lounge also has an IBM Color Jetprinter for printing Lotus graphs and a Apple Thunderscan printer for transposing a printed image into a Macpaint document. After using Thunderscan to convert a picture into MacPaint image, one can then print the image on the lazer printer. The Thunderscan is expedient particularly for converting pictures or images into a medium compatible with the Page Maker program for creating multi-media documents.

Prices at the Computer lounge vary depending on the time period desired by the user. The hourly rate for University students and faculty is \$1.80. But money can be saved if the user purchases a computer term pass at \$25 for 100 hours of computer usage, bringing the rate down to 25 cents an hour. Savings can also be incurred by purchasing a mini pass for \$10 that is good for 10 hours of useage. A semester pass good for 130 hours of use is also available for \$32.50

Use of the campus information exchange (CIE), however, is free of charge for University students and faculty. The CIE is an intra-campus computer conferencing system open to members of the University, including faculty, students and alumni. CIE terminals are also available elsewhere on campus, such as the Computer Center, and can be used for communicating with people on about such topics as housing, rides and jobs.

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