

Fraternity brings cutting-edge computers to campus

BY ANNA GRIFFIN
SENIOR WRITER

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today in the Great Hall, Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity is offering computer lovers and the computer illiterate a great chance to find out more about the latest in microchip technology.

Representatives from 11 computer companies will man booths in the Great Hall all day, showing off their wares and demonstrating new products.

Meredith Powers, president of Alpha Kappa Psi and organizer of the fair, said the computech fair was a great chance for members of the University to increase their computer awareness and shop for hardware.

"(The fair) is basically a service to students and faculty on computer technology," Powers said. "This is the second year we've done it. We got a really good response."

Alpha Kappa Psi branched out this year, contacting local businesses, high schools and state officials about the program, she

said.

"This is an opportunity for people to become more aware of what's coming out," Powers said. "The technology is changing so rapidly, it's hard to keep up with the industry."

The companies manning booths at the fair are: Dell Computers; IBM; Apple; Zenith Data Systems; Word Perfect; EduTech; Vertus Corp.; Data Print; Norina Technologies; Douglas Stuart Company; and Total Computer Center.

Alpha Kappa Psi, which includes about 50 members, is a professional business fraternity open to students majoring in business, economics and industrial relations.

Thanks to the cost of manning booths, the fraternity will make a profit from the fair.

"The companies pay for the booths," Powers said. "The gross income from the fair will be about \$4,000, but we'll take home a lot less than that."

In addition to the booths, several compa-

Computech Fair 1993

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- Dell Computers
- IBM
- Apple
- Zenith Data Systems
- Word Perfect
- EduTech
- Vertus Corp.
- Data Print
- Norina Technologies
- Douglas Stuart Company
- Total Computer Center

Booths will be set up in the Great Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

At 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. representatives from Dell Computers will conduct demonstrations at the Dell booth.

At 12 p.m., representatives from Word Perfect will conduct demonstrations at the Word Perfect booth.

nies will be putting on special presentations during the fair. At 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. representatives from Dell Computers will

demonstrate several new products, and at noon, representatives from Word Perfect will put on a special presentation.

Macintoshes capable of more than word processing

BY PHUONG LY
STAFF WRITER

In the early 1980s, typewriters began to disappear.

But the average Joe and Jane don't realize the same fate awaits ledger books and greeting cards.

Although personal computers are best known for word processing, their power also can be extended to other parts of daily life such as personal finances and the

production of personal stationary and cards.

"What we're seeing now is the technology is empowering the individual," said Jim Barnett, a computer consultant for the Office of Information Technology/Microcomputer User Services. "It's really given the individual more flexibility and more options."

For computer users who want to organize their dollars and cents,

software stores offer several personal finance programs such as Quicken and MacMoney, which sell for about \$50 each.

The programs, designed for the average person and small businesses, keep track of income and expenses, organize personal budgets with graphs and pie charts, and balance the checkbook. The software also prints out personal checks.

"However you would do accounting in the past, the computer can simply automate those things for you," Barnett said.

Computer users also set up different scenarios -- such as "How much do I have to cut expenses if I want to buy a new car?" -- and the computer generates the figures.

"You can say 'Well, look, I'm spending too much on eating out, and you can cut back,'" said Scott Self, a sales associate for The RAM Shop, located in the Student Stores. "It'll give you the numbers and then from the numbers, you have to determine what's within your means."

Although Quicken and MacMoney are similar programs, Quicken is the better buy and is the most popular for the average person, Self said. Quicken features easy-to-understand options and is more user-friendly, he said.

Software also can help simplify and speed up tax preparation. MacInTax, which sells for about \$45, is the most popular and user-friendly tax preparation software package, said Gina Beau, manager of Waldensoftware at University Mall.

Accuracy and speed are the biggest advantages to tax-preparation software, Beau said. "You're not filling out the form, you're just answering the questions," she said. "It's a lot cheaper than an

accountant."

But the software would not be a big benefit for the typical student, Self said.

"Most college students don't make enough money to pay a lot of taxes and to fill out more than the 1040EZ (tax form)," he said. "It's not an advantage for them to buy a program that will do it for them when they can do it by themselves in 10 minutes."

People who have a lot of expenses, property, investment and income will benefit the most from the programs, he said.

Computers aren't limited to generating numbers and dollar signs. A variety of software is available to help make pages of text and paper products more interesting.

The Print Shop, which sells for about \$45, includes a variety of options and graphics for designing greeting cards, banners, calendars and stationary.

"You don't have to draw any of the pictures," Self said. "There's a variety of pictures in the library. It's all just plug and play."

The options allow users to give a personal touch to their creations, and the program is cheaper than buying cards and stationary, he said.

"What's more impersonal -- going out to the store and buying a generic birthday card or spending your own time in writing up a birthday card and printing it out?" Self said.

Other types of software, such as MacPaint or MacDraw Pro, can be combined with a word processing program to allow users to design graphics and arrange them onto a page of text.

MacDraw Pro, which sells for about \$275, includes more options for illustration than MacPaint, which sells for about \$100.

MacDraw Pro also allows users to work on and move individual graphic designs on the drawing screen whereas MacPaint considers the design on the drawing screen to be one whole image.

Also available for design work is a stylus and tablet for about \$200.

For more complex production and for people who do a lot of desktop publishing, the most popular software package is Aldus PageMaker, which sells for about \$495, Barnett said.

With numerous options in typesetting, graphics and layout, Aldus PageMaker allows users to intermesh graphics and text to produce brochures, cover letters, newsletters and booklets.

"It's given the individual more control over what they produce," Barnett said. "The quality, for all practical purposes, is just as good as what you could find in a printed magazine."

All software will take some time and patience to master, but in the past several years, many programs have been designed to be user-friendly, with easy-to-interpret options and graphic interface, Barnett said.

Although MacIntoshes, IBMs and IBM compatibles offer similar software programs with the comparable prices and can perform the same tasks, the beginning or average computer user probably will find the MacIntosh easier to set up, Barnett said.

"The operating system (of the Mac) is easier to use out of the box," he said. "It come out of the box set up and ready to run."

But professionals are divided over which system is easier to use after set-up, he said. "The similarities far outweigh the differences," he said. "I really couldn't sit here and say which is better."

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