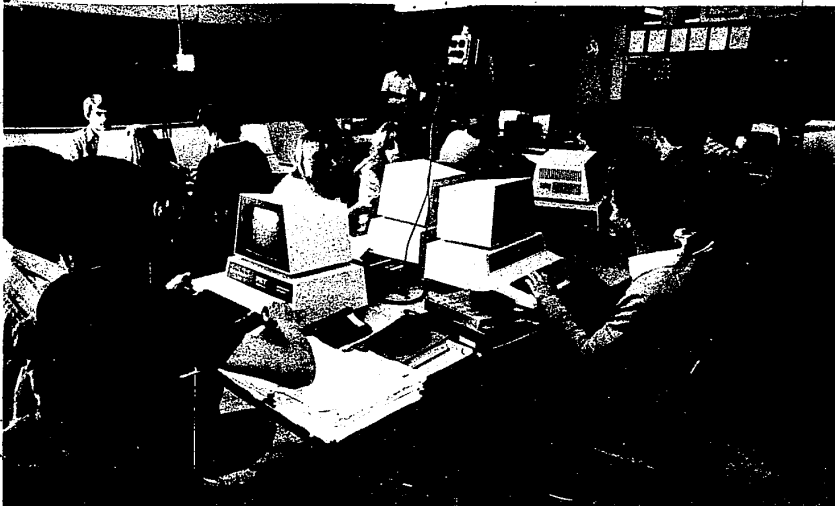


North students plug into computer age



The students study computer technology in a relaxed classroom atmosphere.



Beth Wright gets a helping hand from instructor Mike Horner.



Eric Pennala trouble shoots a problem at his computer terminal.

By Mary Rodriguez
staff writer

All eyes were fixed to the blinking screens in Mike Horner's computer programming class at North Farmington High School Tuesday.

Teamed in pairs before 16 PET microcomputers, the class followed a program prescribed by Horner, who moved from screen to screen, sometimes offering bits of advice.

The format is repeated a dozen times daily in Farmington's three high schools, where basic computer programming is being offered for the first time this year.

Student interest has been strong. Next year the curriculum now limited to juniors and seniors will be open to all high school students. The only prerequisite class is Algebra I.

An advanced programming class is planned where students would learn the rest of the BASIC language (an acronym for Beginners All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code).

By learning the language, students

can communicate with the computer. Numbers are used more frequently than characters because they're easier to manipulate, Horner said.

Some of the work involves basic addition, subtraction and multiplication and learning to store the information in the computer.

Even now some advanced students are writing their own programs.

"ANY PROBLEM that has to do with manipulating information is applicable to a computer solution," Horner said.

"Computers are becoming all-pervasive in society, doing everything from running companies to figuring out taxes."

"They can be used for research in science and math. Results can be checked (by computer) quicker than humans."

Students are attracted to the class because it's something new and different, Horner said.

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Staff photos by Randy Borst

INSIDE ANGLES

YA GOTTA HAVE ART. And to enjoy some of the local offerings, representative art work from students of Farmington elementary schools will be on display this month in the lobby of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners' Building, 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac.

The exhibit is sponsored by the Oakland County Cultural Commission.

And speaking of art, Yoland Wu, a fourth-grader at Kenbrook school in Farmington Hills, won first place at the state level Reflections Contest sponsored by the Parent Teachers Association.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? The Farmington Area Jaycees want to know. And this week has been proclaimed community survey week by the local branch of the community-service organization.

The Jaycees would appreciate your suggestions to help plan a calendar of events for 1981-82. Please answer these questions.

- What do you regard as being the major problems in our community?
- What could the Jaycees do to help improve these problems?

Mail responses to: Farmington Area Jaycees, P.O. Box 33, Farmington 48024.

FREE TIME can be constructively put to use by the Farmington Community Center. The center's guild of volunteers is gearing up for a summer full of activities.

They invite participants to become "an important cog in the wheel that keeps your Farmington Community Center rolling along."

Call the business office at 477-8404 for more information or stop by 24705 Farmington Road and pick up an interest sheet for volunteer opportunities.

AND, VOLUNTEERS can also be put to good use by the Farmington Founders Festival committee.

The 17th annual festival will be July 21-26. Also, the committee is looking for persons interested in obtaining space for an arts & crafts booth or an ethnic foods booth.

To get involved, call festival secretary Ronnie Guzinski at 531-4422 or write Founders Festival, P.O. Box 2694, Farmington Hills 48018.

KUDOS TO KATHRYN DAMBRUN, who won the Oakland County Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award at the group's annual dinner meeting at Oakland Hills Country Club on Tuesday.

Mrs. Dambrun, who works as a Big Sister in Farmington Hills' Marillac Hall, a home for unwed mothers, won the award for organizing Volunteers in Probation for Southfield.

There she works with 17- to 21-year-old offenders on probation.

Mrs. Dambrun is married and has three children.

The Liberty Bell Award is given annually to the person in Oakland County who has made significant contributions to the legal community. Nominations come from all over Oakland County.

IT STARTED HERE on the pages of the Farmington Observer's Suburban Life section last spring.

We asked women who worked in factories during wartime production to contact the producers of a documentary in progress to recount their experiences.

Readers responded by the hundreds.

Now comes the fun part. The finished product, "The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter," depicting the experience of women called to work in factories during World War II, will be shown on May 27 as part of the Oakland Community College-Ore-hard Ridge Womencenter lecture series.

The film is at 7:30 p.m. There's a \$2.50 charge. For more information, call the Womencenter at 476-9400, ext. 509.

MUNCH A SALAD at Our Lady of Sorrows school guild salad buffet on Friday, May 15, in the church hall, 23515 Power.

An elaborate selection of salads with roll and beverage is \$3.50, \$3 for senior citizens.

Lunch will be served between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

ROUGE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL is looking for new members. The council, formed to improve water resource management in the Rouge River basin, has membership as varied as West Bloomfield Township to the north and Dearborn to the south. Associate memberships are available to individuals, public-interest groups, business and industry.

The council monitors permit applications, consulting with member governments on an individual basis, and responds to public requests for information and assistance.

The problem of sewage input into the river is being addressed under provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act. Presently there are four major regional studies and numerous local studies underway in an attempt to solve the problem.

For more information, call 522-4340 or write: Rouge River Watershed Council, 9501 Henry Ruff, Livonia 48150.

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