



Jeff Kinville works at the computer station in the drafting room at North Farmington High School.

Computers change drafting methods

Continued from Page 3

tem, there'll be a lot of similarities. There's a great deal of carry over."

Dean, who studied computer drafting at Milwaukee Area Technical College last summer, hopes to teach a specialized course called Computer Drafting at North next semester. There's a need for such a course, he said.

"From time to time I receive information about careers in the '80s," Dean said, "and I always read it to every class I had. One of the careers they talk about is computer-aided graphics."

"It (the information) said that computers will be replacing the T-squares and things in drafting. But you still have to start them (students) off with a little bit of basic drafting, and I don't know if they can do that on the computer."

DRAFTING STUDENTS "have responded very positively," according to Beaumunk.

"In fact, we went to (North's) computer classes where the students learn

some programming and said we'd teach them some applications in computer design work," he said. "A good many of these kids responded, too."

Jeff Kinville, a North Farmington Junior and a promising drafting student, said he enjoyed the new equipment.

"It's a great experience if you're planning a career in engineering," said Kinville, who will work for Kirk Engineering as a co-op student next semester.

The system, although efficient, isn't cheap. The terminals and graphics tablets run about \$1,900 each, and the plotter costs \$1,800. The computer program cost around \$100,000, Beaumunk said.

Dean said that someday he hopes to have some state-of-the-art equipment which prints three-dimensional drawings and costs \$18,000. But right now he's satisfied with what he has.

"It takes the students from the very beginning and builds their confidence in both themselves and the computer," he said.

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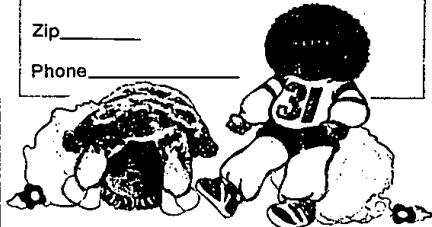
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