

The Observer

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Campus Calendar

Wednesday, December 19

CUBOM Movie: Get into the Christmas spirit with "It's A Wonderful Life" showing in the College Center Cafeteria at 7 p.m.

CUBOM Special Event: Reggie Harris and his wife, Kim, present their coffeehouse show, featuring a variety of music and humor. The show can be seen in the Westerlin Lounge at 5 p.m.

Credential/Resume Workshop: Paxton Room, College Center, 1 p.m.

Christmas Program: "The Star of Bethlehem" is still being presented in the John Deere Planetarium, now until Dec. 22, nightly at 7 p.m. The program is FREE but reservations are required. Call Kathy Stout, 7327.

Campus Ministry: The annual celebration of "The Joy of Christmas Past and Present" will take place in historic Andover, Illinois. Free bus transportation is provided from Founders Hall driveway. (Bus leaves at 6:30 p.m. and returns at 10 p.m.) Reservations can be made by calling 7383 or in the Campus Ministry Office (Founders 210).

Thursday, December 20

Feminist Forum: The topic this week will be "Women in Church," Noon, in the College Center Board Room.

Concert: The Augustana Chamber Singers will again be performing to celebrate Christmas in the Ascension Chapel at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 21

Deadline: Last day to drop a class!

Deadline: Last day to apply for a Spring Internship.

Hallelujah: Christmas break begins!

Saturday, December 22

Mandatory Sleep-In: No Augustana student(s) will be allowed to leave their bed before 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 23

Mandatory Sleep-In: No Augustana student(s) will be allowed to leave their bed before 11:30 a.m.

Monday, December 24

Last day to sit on Santa's lap!

Tuesday, December 25

Merry Christmas: 22 days until the next *Observer* issue!

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Half-a-Million in Hardware College Invests in the Computer Age



Augustana plans to 'prepare computer literate graduates.'

by Kathy Cairns

In an effort to keep pace with advancing technology, Augustana is implementing a plan to distribute approximately \$500,000 worth of computer hardware throughout the campus during the next three years.

Since 1983, both an academic committee, and an administrative committee have been evaluating the school's computer needs. From these two committees an ad hoc committee was formed to develop a pro-

posal for updating the schools computer system.

Composed of Dr. Carrol Morris, Dr. Douglas Nelson, Dr. David Renneke, Dr. Timothy Schermer, and Dr. Merry Wiesner, the committee recently presented the proposal, entitled, "Augustana Computing: A Strategic Plan" to the Board of Directors.

According to the study, "Augustana now faces the challenge of incorporating computers into its curriculum, not only for their potential as in-

Co-Ed Housing Students Respond to New Survey

by Jill Standard

Augustana's first attempt at coordinated housing, otherwise known as co-ed housing, has been termed a success by deans and students alike.

Bartholomew Hall and I.M. Anderson Hall, nicknamed New Dorms, have been practicing Augustana's experimental housing arrangement since the beginning of the academic year. Men and women are separated by suites of six people each. Two groups of women and two groups of men live in each hall. Each hall is assigned one Community Adviser. Val Poyd watches over the men and women in Bartholomew, while Mike Saad does the same in I.M. Anderson.

"It's nice having guys next door to help out. I think there is a lot of griping, but we haven't had any personality clashes," said Val Boyd. "I get to know these people a little better since there are only 24 in the building complex. I don't see why anyone wouldn't want to live here," she said.

"It's a good experiment for the school," said Chris Staub, a resident of New Dorms, "but since there is separation by suites, there is little interaction. I have a female C.A. and that is kind of nice," he said.

The expansion of coordinated housing has already been accepted by the Board of Directors. Both Deans Backmeyer and Hullett believe that coordinated housing in some of Augustana's residence halls could become a reality. However, they pointed out that the push for

change must come from the students.

"Students have to give a clear indication that they want co-ed housing," said Backmeyer. "I suggest they start with organizations like R.A."

"The press for it [coordinated housing] is more effective coming out of the student body," said Hullett.

An attempt at coordinated housing was made by the administration in March, 1972. Upperclass men and women were given the option to sign up for co-ed housing in Carlsson. The dorm was to be divided in half, with men to one side of the lounges and women the other. Eight women out of the 50 needed signed up. The men's side also failed to reach the capacity limit.

In looking at a similar situation today, Hullett said, "My gut feeling is that, yes, it would sell now."

Not all residence halls would change their housing policies so that students would have a choice about the type of residence hall they would like to live in.

However, the dorms renovated to accommodate co-ed housing would be separated by floor or wing. Both Hullett and Backmeyer pointed out that men and women would not share rooms or restroom facilities.

Numerous advantages and disadvantages exist in applying coordinated housing at Augustana. Hullett said, "The benefits outweigh, generally speaking, the difficulties."

Backmeyer listed some of the advantages such as students' tendency

structural tools, but also to prepare computer literate graduates capable of using computers and of understanding their role in society well enough to manage the emerging information age."

The proposal was accepted by the Board, and labeled top priority. The development committee suggested a fund drive to solicit the funds needed to act on the ad hoc committee's recommendations.

That fund drive has since commenced and, according to Dean of the College Harold Sundelius, the college "hopes to phase the plan in over the next three years, as the funds come in."

While it eventually involves updating the school's central computing system, the initial thrust of the plan is to develop a 'distributed computing system.' This will involve the purchase of 65 new micro-computers to be installed throughout the campus.

According to Dr. Timothy Schermer of the Computer Center, "Ultimately, there will be one micro-computer for every four members of the faculty."

The college also intends to expose more students to computers, and their uses. Clusters of four micro-computers will be installed in Erickson, Westerlin, and Andreen for student use. Ten new units will also be added to the Reading/Writing Center in Old Main, and another seven will be installed in various academic buildings for student access.

Schermer explained, "We're going into micro-computers because they will be important to (the students) when they graduate."

To train both students and faculty in the use of these new computers, the college has been offering one-hour training sessions throughout the last quarter. The sessions, called "short courses," will continue after the holidays, though specific information is, as yet, unavailable.

The computer plan also recommends that computer use be incorporated into the curriculum. To this end, the school has begun teaching basic word processing skills in two Freshman writing courses. Eventually word processing may become a requirement of all English 101 classes.

In another effort to expose more students to the basic skills needed to operate computers, the college will offer a new computer course next fall, which will focus on application rather than programming.

The Dean's office has also applied for an LCA grant to fund a seminar this summer, which would instruct faculty members from various departments in computer skills.

Schermer remarked, "The micro-computers could be tools in the curriculum beyond the Math and Science departments. Word processing, spread sheets, data base systems, and graphics could be utilized by a variety of departments."

The computer center is also looking into ways to help students and faculty members purchase their own computer equipment, by offering advice and possibly arranging discount agreements with computer companies.