



NEW SYSTEMS SIMPLIFY OFFICE WORK

By Cathy Mason

A word-processing system and an up-dated data-processing system has been added at ACC to facilitate communications and registration.

The word-processing system handles communications. Three units, including one with an ink-jet printer, will record information on discs resembling a 45 rpm record.

An example of its use could include drawing up memos for a teacher. This teacher could call the word-processing system via telephone, dictate the memo, and specify the number of copies needed. Word-processing takes care of the rest.

Since June, Mike Hood of the Records Office, has been debugging the other new system at ACC-updated data-processing.

This system puts the school directly "on line" to the computer via terminals. This means that the computer has immediate input and output. This is much faster than the previously used batch-processing system, which involved mailing information to the computer in Roscommon.

The up-dated data-processing system will be used especially for registration. Presently, the Community Service classes are being registered by computer. Spring registration will also be handled by this system.

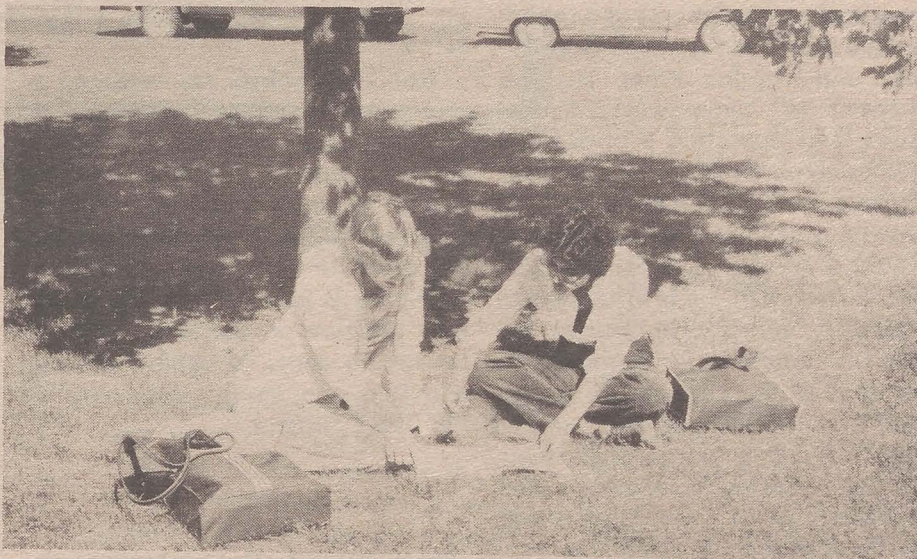
To illustrate, a registering student won't have to wait in a series of long lines to sign up for classes. The student will only have two stops to make—one at the computer terminal and one at the cashier.

Three terminals are in use, one each in the Records, Admissions, and Business offices. Hood hopes eventually to have a terminal in each building. That will have to be in the future, however, since they cost around \$3,000.

Both the word-processing and data-processing systems can work together to provide efficiency and expediency here at ACC.

Few attend church

Church attendance among students is low—only 10% attend every week and 20% "almost never" attend, according to a survey conducted at Virginia Tech. But 75% surveyed said they believe in God and 80% consider the church to be a "socially relevant" institution.



Students Cori Klemens and Diane LaCross study together on the front lawn of ACC's Van Lare Hall.

AUTO LEMON LAW PROTECTS CONSUMER

(Lansing)—The new auto lemon law will not solve all consumer headaches with defective cars, but it does provide additional protection for consumers who finance their cars through a dealership.

When a consumer buys a car on an installment contract from a dealer, the dealership usually sells the contract to a financial institution so the dealer can have immediate access to the money for the car. Consequently, the consumer is actually paying a third-party—the financial institution—for the automobile.

Problems arise when the car turns out to be a lemon—when it continually breaks down and the dealer can't or won't repair it to the consumer's satisfaction. Before the new law, the consumer was generally forced to continue to pay for the car having no recourse insofar as the third-party financial institution was concerned.

Under the new auto lemon law, the financial institution is subject to the same claims and defenses in court that a consumer may raise if the dealer were still holding the contract.

In other words, if a consumer stops making payments on a car loan because the car is defective and the financial institution sues to collect back payments, then the consumer has some leverage in the courts. If the financial institution sues, the car owner can explain to

the judge that payments were being withheld because the car didn't measure up to the terms of the dealer's agreement. For example, the dealer wasn't honoring the warranty. Before this, a judge could refuse to consider the consumer's reasons for withholding payments.

Confusion about the new law arises because many people are under the impression that in order to have something repossessed, the holder of the contract must first go to court. That is true if the repossession would breach the peace; consequently, for most consumer items a court order is used. But for cars it's possible to hot wire or tow them from the street or parking lot without 'breaching the peace.' This is called 'self-help' repossession where, quite simply, the company helps itself to the consumer's car.

Before taking the extreme step of withholding payments, consumers should complain to the manager or owner of the dealership. Often the problem can be solved at this point because most businesses want to keep their customers satisfied.

For a free brochure on how to complain effectively, write the Michigan Consumers Council, 414 Hollister Building, 106 W. Allegan, Lansing, MI 48933.

ACC Separation up for votes

By Cathy Mason

Voting on the proposed separation of ACC from the K-14 school district, will take place Tuesday, November 6.

Proposals include:

(a) Proposition to establish the community college district. Shall a community college district composed of the Alpena School District be established in accordance with Act No. 331 of the Public Acts of 1966?

(b) Shall the maximum annual tax rate be fixed at 1.5 mils?

(c) Election of 7 members of the board of trustees. Three for six year terms, two for four year terms, and two for two year terms.

Those who oppose the separation contend the entire K-14 system provides a broader and continuous view of community education needs.

The whole system is a drawing source for faculty and facilities. It also serves as a buffer against lack of finances.

Those supporting the separate K-12 and community college districts think autonomy is vital. The autonomous college district will not be slighted in preference of K-12 in money and/or programs. This freedom will stimulate growth.

Petitions for the college board of trustees were filed September 18. Four persons will seek the 6-year terms, with three seeking the 4-year terms and four seeking the 2-year terms.

Whether these proposals pass or fail, they will not be instituted until July 1, 1980.

Polls reveal no student heroes

Most students don't have a "hero". That was the finding of an unscientific poll by a Northwestern U. magazine. Of 200 students who were asked the question, "who is your hero?", most had no ready answer. Even the poll leader, Jesus Christ, drew only eight mentions. Mahatma Gandhi was second and Jane Fonda, Woody Allen, and Bruce Springsteen tied for third.