

Computer takes over Red's out, IBM's in!

The scholastic fate of some students is determined, not by the red pencil mark of an instructor, but instead by the efficient clickity — clack of a computer located in room 194W of Nebraska Hall.

The computer, officially titled the "IBM 1230 Optical Mark Sensing Reader with punch card attachment," scores standard answer sheets which are marked "only with a medium soft number two lead pencil."

According to Henry M. Cox, director of University Examination Service, the present IBM machine scores well over 100,000 tests annually for approximately 40 different departments within the University.

The first testing machine, the

International Test Scoring Machine, was invented by a high school physics teacher in Minnesota in 1936, Cox said.

A computer of this type was installed in the University of Nebraska in September of 1939. The IBM 1230 presently in use is rented annually at a cost of \$4,000.

Cox, who has been with the University since 1940 said, "the examination service is a service with a purpose."

The Examination Service's function is to relieve the faculty of the sizable chore of grading examinations in large classes which may consist of 400 or 500 students, Cox explained.

Cox emphasized that since this is a service, the only charge is a token charge of one cent per answer sheet which is collected from the departments.

"We do this mainly to give us an idea of how many departments will want to use our service," he said.

The computer is used for purposes other than student examination scoring, including the compilation of question-

naires, research project examinations and collection of data for research. Other services to the University include the Regent's Exam, examinations for entrance into law school and other graduate programs as well as administration of the national medical school examination, Cox explained.

State seeking graduate interns

Out of the 25 graduate student intern jobs open in state government only three have been filled, according to John Thornton, state personnel director.

Currently the program is open only to graduate students in business administration at the University of Nebraska, but Thornton expects internships to be expanded to other colleges and to undergraduates.

He says he's pleased with the pilot program that began with one student last fall and added two more this semester. The interns are John Russell, Robert Ochs and Richard Gilliland.

week in the personnel office, the legislative fiscal analyst's office and the technical assistance agency.

Thornton regrets that not enough students have applied to fill all the available positions.

"The agencies are clamoring for them," he said. "We can place interested graduate students immediately."

According to Thornton, the program was slow getting started because of organizational hang-ups at the University resulting from the delay of legislative approval of the University's budget and the long length of the Unicameral's session.

State government interns have become a campaign issue in Nebraska's gubernatorial race. Democratic candidate J. J. Exon of Lincoln said he would start a program involving about 300 college students in part-time state jobs if he is elected governor.

EXON'S running mate for lieutenant governor, Ronald Reagan, has been quoted as saying young people educated in Nebraska have "some moral obligation to stay," and that more job opportunities would help convince them to remain.

Under the current program, part-time interns earn about \$2,500 dollars a year. They have the choice of working part-time for two years or full-time for one year.

Thornton said without the intern program, "we'd probably have to get along the way we are" unless budget limitations are changed.

The program was originated by Thornton and two NU professors of business administration, Richard Bourne and Henry Albers. The pilot program is limited to business administration graduate students since that department helped plan it.

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