



Students visit center

June W. Gillikin's second grade at Camp Glenn Elementary School, Morehead City, recently visited the computer department at Carteret Technical College. Nolan Tomboulian, instructor, programmed several computer games for the children, including math, reading and drawing games.

Math, Science Well Taught

By Monty Montgomery

"Our children are being cheated," said Cecily Selby of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics at a recent conference held in Raleigh. The conference, which was chaired by Malcolm Fulcher, brought together many educators and business people who

were concerned about the poor shape of science and math teaching in our public schools.

The results of the poll conducted by the N. C. 2000 committee indicated that the major concern of citizens from all over the state is education.

With these dire statements concerning the

state of education in mind, we recently talked with two men who are responsible for overseeing the educational institutions which serve a large segment of the Down East population. According to Donald Willis, principal of Smyrna School and Ron Parrish, principal of East Carteret High School, the students Down East are far

from being cheated.

Mr. Willis said the purpose of elementary science teaching is to provide the basics of a foundation the student can build on later. "The thrust of the elementary science curriculum is to develop an enquiring mind, not to give facts and figures," he continued.

"When Mr. Willis talked about his students, it is easy to imagine getting inspired to learn or to teach.

"I want every child to have success everyday in every subject. One thing that builds success is previous success," he said.

There are no majors in intermediate education, Mr. Willis explained, but teachers concentrate in whatever subject most interests them. An elementary school teacher may not have had much emphasis placed on math or science during his education. Those teachers will do the best they can.

It seems it would be easier for a teacher to introduce science and math to an elementary school student in the atmosphere of the school run by Mr. Willis. Encouraging the child's own curiosity is all he asks and is enough.

Teachers of the seventh and eighth do begin to specialize in areas of instruction. They would have concentrated in certain subjects in college. "We try to place people where they're strongest," said Mr. Willis.

Innovative projects are being offered to the middle graders this year. Donald Austin is planning experiments with helium balloons. The students will make the helium.

The experiments will show that science need not be a forbidding subject, but may be fun, too.

Jody Wilson invited Nolan Tombouliau, from Carteret Technical College to give demonstrations in computer science. "Basically they'll learn that the computer is not a magic machine. It does what you tell it," said Mr. Willis.

Somebody is doing something right at East Carteret High School. The list of accomplishments is impressive.



Students at Smyrna School are fascinated by the computers brought to the school by Nolan Tombouliau at the invitation of Jodi Wilson. The students learned the computer "is not a magic box, but a machine that does what you tell it," according to principal Donald Willis.

Carteret Tech

High school students attend seminar

By BRAD RICH
News-Times Staff Writer

EAST AND West Carteret High School students yesterday received briefings on four occupations during the second annual Coastal Carolina Careers Day at Carteret Technical College.

Spokesmen from the computer science, civil service, real estate and broadcast news fields told students how

and why they should enter those particular fields.

NOLAN TOMBOULIAN, a computer expert and instructor at Carteret Tech, led off. He told students that, while the job market for computer trainees wasn't yet wide open in Carteret County, it would be. He, he said, the pay wasn't bad.

Mr. Tombouliau explained that as computers invaded

our everyday lives, more and more small businesses would begin to utilize the "once-untamable monsters." He explained that students who were willing to relocate might find entry-level jobs that pay as much as \$13,000 to \$18,000 annual salaries.

"AND," he said, "the potential is unlimited. Like any job, the hardest thing is get-

ting in. Once you're in, you're in for good. And, if you happen to have a degree in nursing and a background in computers, well, you can practically write your own ticket."

Mr. Tombouliau said most computer jobs in eastern North Carolina were found in Raleigh and Greenville. "But," he said, "if you are willing to go, there are plenty of them. Of the 10 pages of jobs listed by the Employment Security Commission, 2½ are in data processing."

Kids Love Computers

"I'm willing to go any place where there are children who want to have access to computers," said Nolan Tomboulian. He proved his willingness to share his understanding of the world of computers when he went to Smyrna School September 17.

Mr. Tomboulian is a computer science teacher at Carteret Technical College. He was invited to introduce computers to the seventh and eighth graders at the school by math teacher Jody Wilson.

"That was a good group," he said of the Smyrna students. "The students want to learn. They've heard about computers."

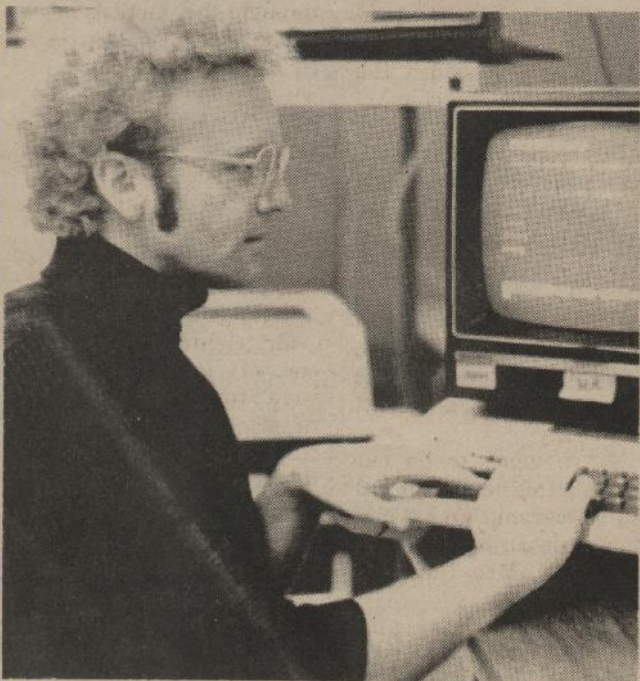
With the help of a couple of different programs designed to hold their interest, Mr. Tomboulian introduced word processing. "They see it's not that complex. The computer is a box I can put anything in I want to and get the results out," he said.

The biggest problem he found in introducing computers to children is that they don't have the necessary typing skills. Before he goes to another class, he said it would help if the teachers could give the students some familiarity with the keyboard.

His first exposure teaching the computers to elementary school children came in November. A teacher at Camp Glenn School invited him to her third grade class. The children had been reading in their school books about Daddy coming home from working with computers.

The teacher thought the children would like to know a little more about computers. Mr. Tomboulian was willing but said he now feels that was too young.

When asked why he was so willing to carry his machines to the students, he replied, "Because I'm an educator!"



Nolan Tomboulian sits at a computer console at Carteret Technical College. He teaches computers at the college but is happy to share his knowledge with school students in the county. Most recently he took his computers to Smyrna School for a demonstration.

