

# Courses Are Offered In Home Computers

**Y**OU may not be able to talk back to your television set with much success, but you can tell your home computer a thing or two. Some computer scientists believe a computer in the home may be as common as a color television set in a few years.

Already capable of performing book-keeping and other mathematical functions, these micro computers, which now start at \$500, someday may be able to do much more.

Take temperature, for example. Like a little extra heat between 9 and 9:30 A.M. but want it to cool down precisely at 9:31 A.M.? Tell the computer and your command will be carried out.

The problem, of course, is that computers are complex. And, to familiarize the public with the mechanics and operation of the home units, several schools in the city are offering courses.

Beginning Feb. 7, the New School for Social Research, 66 West 12th Street, in conjunction with the Know-how Workshop, 17 East 16th Street, will offer its first introductory course for the computer novice.

David Fiedler, the instructor, says the 12-week course will cover the uses, operation and programming of a micro-computer. Students will learn the BASIC language, a language used in the programming of computers, and how to select the right computers for themselves from those on the market. A microcomputer will be available for students' use both during and after class.

One section of the \$120 noncredit course is already filled, and Mr. Fiedler, an enthusiastic supporter of the educational use of home computers, said that is "vindication" for the efforts to include the course in this year's curriculum.

A second section of the course, to meet Wednesdays at 7:55 P.M., beginning Feb. 8, is still open; a third section will begin Feb. 7, on Tuesdays at 7:55 P.M. Students can register up to the first day of classes at the New School. For information, call 741-1194.

At Marymount Manhattan College, 221 East 71st Street, a six-session course in "Basic Home Computer Programming" will begin on Wednesday,

Feb. 15, at 8 P.M. According to Dr. Marc Kramer, the \$70, noncredit course will be "an introduction to home computers and learning the basic language and program writing."

"Ninety-five percent of the people buying computers will know nothing about programming," said Dr. Kramer, a clinical audiologist with a background in computer language.

Marymount does not own microcomputers, but will provide them for some if not all of the sessions. For registration information, call 472-3800, extension 566.

New York University offered its first practical course in microcomputers last fall. According to Professor Stuart Fink, director of the Data Processing and Systems Analysis Institute, the course drew businessmen, engineers, data-processing technicians and "science whizzes."

Professor Fink said the noncredit course, beginning Feb. 6 and running until May 22, will cover all aspects of the microcomputer.

The course, which costs \$240, will meet Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:15 P.M. Microcomputers will be available for students' use. Students can register at N.Y.U., 50 West 4th Street, Room 126, from 9 A.M. to 7:30 P.M., Monday to Friday, until the first day of class. For more information, call 598-2101.

At Columbia University, a five-session course in elementary computer programming will begin on Feb. 7. Jessica Gordon, assistant director of the University Center for Computing Activities, said the \$100, noncredit course will teach the BASIC language and will include one hour of lab each week. Students can register at Dodge Building, Room 615, Columbia University, 116th Street and Broadway, from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Monday to Friday. For information, call 280-2287.

Saturday morning classes in computer instruction for youngsters 12 to 16 years old will begin on April 1 at Hunter College. Details of time, price and place are still being worked out. If successful, the course will be expanded and incorporated into an adult course for the college's "Center for Lifelong Learning." Registration will begin on March 1. For information, call 949-4361.