

Workshops—

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and do optional work.

But the problem of large classes and limited reading time also puts a constraint on students which may produce better writing.

Ed Whitelaw, economics associate professor, has students enrolled in his urban economics course write six to eight take-home quizzes a term and places a stringent word limit on the answers.

"I found most students would use the shot-gun approach—if they hit enough points they might hit the one that answered the question," he says. "Introducing word limits drives them to concen-

trate on only the salient features of the exercise. It seems to produce more precise logic, while not putting the reader to sleep.

Although the summer workshop was directed at University faculty, Teich recognizes that many students' writing problems are caused by their pre-college instruction.

"During the 60s we turned out a whole generation of teachers who didn't care about writing," says Teich. "There were several different theories being tried out and things were pretty disorganized."

This fall, however, the University's English department and College of Education doubled the writing requirements that language arts majors have to meet in order to obtain certification to

teach secondary school English.

According to Roland Bartel, English department head, prospective English teachers must now take a course entitled "Teaching of Writing" as well as one other composition or creative writing course. The University also offers a 199-level basic grammar class as a course elective.

"People believed that writing was unimportant," says Teich. "Our goal is to make it so that people, if the chips were down and they had to write, could do it passably well."

Teich is continuing his efforts to aid teachers in writing instruction. He has already approached other agencies for funds to hold more workshops.

Programs pose puzzle

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fraud and abuse in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) programs costs taxpayers "many millions of dollars each year" but no one knows exactly how much because of weak policing efforts, a congressional committee reported Monday.

The big agency with a \$118 billion budget and 129,000 fulltime employees is so complex, in fact, that for five months HEW officials could not even agree on how many programs the department has, the report said.

"During this period," it said, "at least four different figures on the number of HEW programs were supplied to congressional committees, ranging from a low of 250 to as many as 320."

The final figure HEW agreed on was 289, of which 72 were administered by other agencies.

Letters plead for releases

Joan Baez and William Buckley Jr. may be at opposite ends of the political spectrum. But they do share at least one political goal.

The two political activists sit on the Board of Directors of Amnesty International (AI), a world-wide organization dedicated to the protection of human rights. The thrust of AI's activities is to seek the release of "prisoners of conscience" through publicity and letter writing campaigns.

Each chapter or group works for the release of three individual prisoners at a time. The Eugene AI chapter, with some 25 members, is currently working for the release of two prisoners in Brazil and Indonesia. The chapter's third prisoner, a woman imprisoned in an East German jail, was released last October, partly due to the efforts of Eugene letter writers.

David Clausennius, a University student in psychology and an AI member, told why letter-writing campaigns are most effective in freeing political prisoners. "Governments are very concerned about public opinion; if enough pressure is felt then the chances of releasing our prisoner are greatly increased," he said.

AI got its start in 1961 when several British lawyers found that their presence in a particular South African "kangaroo" court made the difference between a just and unjust trial. Since that time, the organization has grown to 1,300 groups world-wide, and has aided in the release of over

14,000 political prisoners.

To publicize the kind of humanitarian work AI is doing a CBS film entitled "Portrait of a Prisoner of Conscience" will be shown this afternoon at 12:30 in the EMU Forum, and Wednesday

at 12:30 p.m. in the Law School. Anyone seeking more information about the organization should talk to spokespersons at the film showings, or call David Clausennius at 343-2622 or Matt Fleishman at 343-9401.

Frat reactivated

Dormant for 10 years, the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity will attempt to re-establish the chapter it started at the University in 1912.

The fraternity notified the University of its intention to re-colonize, and received a formal invitation to join the local Greek community last November.

Thomas Burns, field secretary from the fraternity's headquarters, was sent to the University by local alums who directed him to reorganize their old frat. Burns will attempt to build up the frat through a list of names which alums have provided him, and through the informal rush organized by the Inter-Fraternity Council. Burns hopes to find at least 12 people to form his "core group," which will spend a year attempting to socially and financially beef up the fraternity.

Phi Gamma Delta graduates, which Burns says number about 600 from this University, bought a house at 1810 Alder St. to serve as the future site of the fraternity.

Burns says the house is ready for occupancy at any time, and he hopes to establish the core group

immediately. Interested persons can contact him at 344-2033 or call the Inter-Fraternity Council.

Workshop to focus on bargaining

A two-fold collective bargaining workshop sponsored by the ASUO Executive today with a discussion of House Bill 3043 and the role of students in bargaining negotiations.

The workshop is scheduled to run from 3:30 to 6 p.m. in the EMU, room to be posted. Kirby Garrett, ASUO vice-president, says the workshop is aimed mainly at members of the Executive, the Incidental Fee Committee and the Student University Affairs Board, although all students will be welcome.

Next Tuesday, the workshop continues with a simulated negotiations session.

According to study

Brain damage not linked to pot

NEW YORK (AP)—Chronic marijuana use was not found to be associated with any permanent or irreversible impairment in higher brain function or intelligence in a study of native Costa Ricans reported Monday.

The study results were said to be compatible with earlier controlled studies, but went further by employing additional controls. Researchers cautioned, however, that a final answer is not yet in.

The report, from researchers at the University of Florida and the University of Victoria, said that the findings lend no support to speculation on an "amotivational syndrome" among chronic users marked by such things as apathy, confusion, memory defects.

Details of the extensive study reported to an opening session of an international conference on Chronic Cannabis Use, sponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences and the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Cannabis is the name of the plant portion used

in marijuana.

After the initial selection of subjects and evaluation of tests in Costa Rica, an experimental group of 41 users and 41 matched controls was studied. Users in the final sample consumed about nine marijuana cigarettes each day for an average of 17 years.

"It is hoped that the additional methodological controls employed in the present study, by investigators with no vested interest in the results, will buttress what is clearly becoming a majority finding — namely that chronic marijuana use does not irreversibly damage the brain or personality," the researchers said.

However, direct measurements of molecular brain structure and chemistry could not be performed with the human subjects, the researchers said. "Consequently, the final word concerning the question of brain damage in humans cannot be given at the present time," they said, adding however, that there is no strong evi-

dence to support any such idea.

The findings of the study were based on the results of statistical analysis of a wide variety of tests that showed "essentially no significant differences between users and non-users on any of the neuropsychological, intelligence or personality tests. Furthermore, no relationship was found between level of daily use (high vs. low) and test performance."

Paul Satz and Jack Fletcher of the University of Florida and Louis Stuker of the University of Victoria said the study supports and extends another study, the Jamaican Project on Ganja, reported last year. The Jamaican study results, however, "have unfortunately been overshadowed by three earlier studies, each of which has reported evidence of severe and irreversible brain damage in cases of chronic marijuana use. Each of these studies, however, is grossly marred in terms of design and methodology," the authors said.

Tuesday, January 27, 1976

EMU Cultural Forum Presents



"Eight Extraordinary Women" featuring

The Elizabethan Trio

Wed., January 28 Tickets at EMU Main Desk
Beall Concert Hall \$2.00 - U of O Students
8:00 p.m. \$3.00 - General Public

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