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# Workshop stresses writing skills

Twenty-six writing instructors will return to their school districts this week armed with the latest techniques for helping students write.

The teachers — from Western Oregon grade schools through colleges — were participants in the fourth annual Oregon Writing Project, held on campus during the last four weeks.

The intensive, four-week workshop emphasized the importance of creativity and communication in writing, says English Prof. Nat Teich, coordinator of the project.

The teachers learned that "writing is not just a personal, private thing you do at home in your closet," but a communication skill, he says.

The workshop is part of the nationally recognized Berkeley-Bay Area Writing Project, which has spawned 60 similar writing projects in 33 states.

Teich says the program developed as a response to complaints about the writing abilities of English teachers.

Many elementary English

teachers were not English majors in college, causing them to be "hesitant, uncertain" teachers of writing, he says.

The workshop, which stresses empathy for others' writing, does not just focus on grammar, Teich says.

"Our whole emphasis is on the process," he says. "Writing is a complicated, multi-faceted activity."

The teachers, who averaged eight years teaching experience, spent five days a week writing, editing and critiquing

each others writing.

The purpose of the workshop is two-fold, Teich says.

First, the summer class tries to improve the writing of the participating teachers. Second, the teachers are expected to return to their districts and offer in-service workshops to pass the new techniques on to colleagues.

Teich says that as each group of teachers return to their districts, "there are lots and lots of people who are being exposed to new techniques in writing."

# Text examines public-lands battle

The current battle over control of publicly-owned lands in the Western states, known as the "Sagebrush Rebellion," is examined in a new textbook co-authored by University Law School Prof. Charles Wilkinson.

The book, *Federal Public Lands and Resource Law*, gives a detailed account of the movement by some Western politicians to transfer federal authority over those lands back to state governments.

Supporters of the Sagebrush Rebellion are concerned with

opening up more oil and mineral leases and gaining greater access to federal timber, Wilkinson says.

"Anybody who doesn't take the Sagebrush Rebellion seriously is making a bad mistake," he says. "It may not be serious in terms of the federal government transferring public lands away, but it is serious in terms of the potential of dramatically increased resource exploitations on the public lands."

Although the Sagebrush Rebellion has not caught on in

Oregon as it has in some other Western states, Wilkinson says that same drive for increased commercial development is happening here.

In Oregon, he says, the issue concerns cutting of old-growth Douglas fir on federal lands. Most of the old-growth timber is on public lands in the Pacific Northwest, and most of that is in Oregon, according to Wilkinson.

He describes the old Douglas fir stands as "quite properly a

timber harvester's dream" with a "tremendous economic value" because they are accessible, big and straight.

On the other hand, he says, the trees are uniquely valuable esthetically and environmentally, and some plant species live only in old-growth stands.

Wilkinson says his book, which was co-authored by George Coggins, a University of Kansas law professor, is the first book he knows of which deals completely with modern public land law.

# Two win German honors

Two students in the University's Department of Germanic Languages and Literature have received awards for study and teaching at the University of Regensburg in West Germany, while five undergraduate students have been awarded scholarships by the department.

Chris Nelson, a junior majoring in German, was selected in national competition for a German Academic Exchange Service Summer in German Studies.

David Fiero, a graduate teaching fellow in German, has been awarded a two-year appointment as a Lektor in American Studies at the University of Regensburg.

Timothy Miller, Linda Saltmarsh, Mary Murche, Susan Niedermeyer and Erika Heppner each will receive a \$500 stipend for continued study in an interdisciplinary program that combines German language, literature, history, philosophy, political science, music and the arts.

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**daily emerald**

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**briefs**

**NOTICES**

Students and faculty with previous band experience are invited to participate in the **University Summer Concert Band**. The band, which met for the first time on Monday, will meet on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:20 p.m., for four weeks and give two concerts at times to be arranged. It is not necessary to enroll, although credit is available if desired. For information call Wayne Bennett at 686-3772 or the School of Music office at 686-3761.

**The NewMime ShowSchool "Upstarts,"** featuring NewMime Circus students ages 9-15, will debut on the Downtown Mall staging area on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. The show will be repeated at Monroe Park on Friday at 7 p.m. and at University Park on July 26 at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

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