



Congress comes  
to campus  
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## Bookstore to sell computers

By Mike Sims  
Of the Emerald

The State Board of Higher Education and bookstore managers at the eight state colleges and universities are making arrangements with several microcomputer vendors to sell machines to students and faculty at reduced rates.

Bob Spencer, University bookstore merchandise manager, expressed hope that a package deal between the state system, bookstores and computer vendors would be closed by early September. "It looks fairly realistic that by the first of September we'll be placing orders," Spencer said.

According to Spencer and Richard Perry, associate vice chancellor for administration, the state system and bookstore staff have been negotiating with Apple, Hewlett-Packard, IBM and Zenith since March.

Under the proposed contracts, computers and software will be sold through college and university bookstores at vendor's cost plus shipping and handling fees — bookstores will recover costs but won't make a profit from computer sales. "We're not interested in making money on the deal," Perry said.

Perry added that computers would be available at a discount to students and faculty only, and that purchasers (who would be allowed to buy one machine only) would be required to sign a contract stating that they would not re-sell the computer for a period of two to three years. The group hopes to discourage "black marketing" by implementing these measures, he said.

The board is trying to work out a standard contract with vendors for all eight college and university bookstores, partially to eliminate any computer-afforded advantage one school might gain over other institutions in attracting students.

"We want students to choose, say, Eastern Oregon over Southern Oregon or vice versa because of the school's academic merits — not because of the price and availability of computers in the bookstore," Perry said.

Jerry Rusch, associate professor of architecture, said that higher education Chancellor Bud Davis became interested in the discount computer plan after negotiations failed between the University and Apple Computers to join an Apple-sponsored consortium dedicated to promoting microcomputer use in universities.

Apple and the 24-university consortium had arranged to sell \$2 million worth of MacIntosh microcomputers at half-price through school bookstores over a three-year period. Consortium members also exchanged written programs and software.

When the due date for university bids to join the Apple consortium passed last winter, Dick Hill, University vice president for academic affairs and provost, formed a five-person committee to survey computer purchasing opportunities with several vendors.

Perry wrote "memos of understanding" to computer vendors, seeking their interest in what he called "an educational endeavor." Perry said he expects the memos to be returned, signed, to the state system chancellor's office in "a week or so." State college and university bookstore managers will then sign the memos.

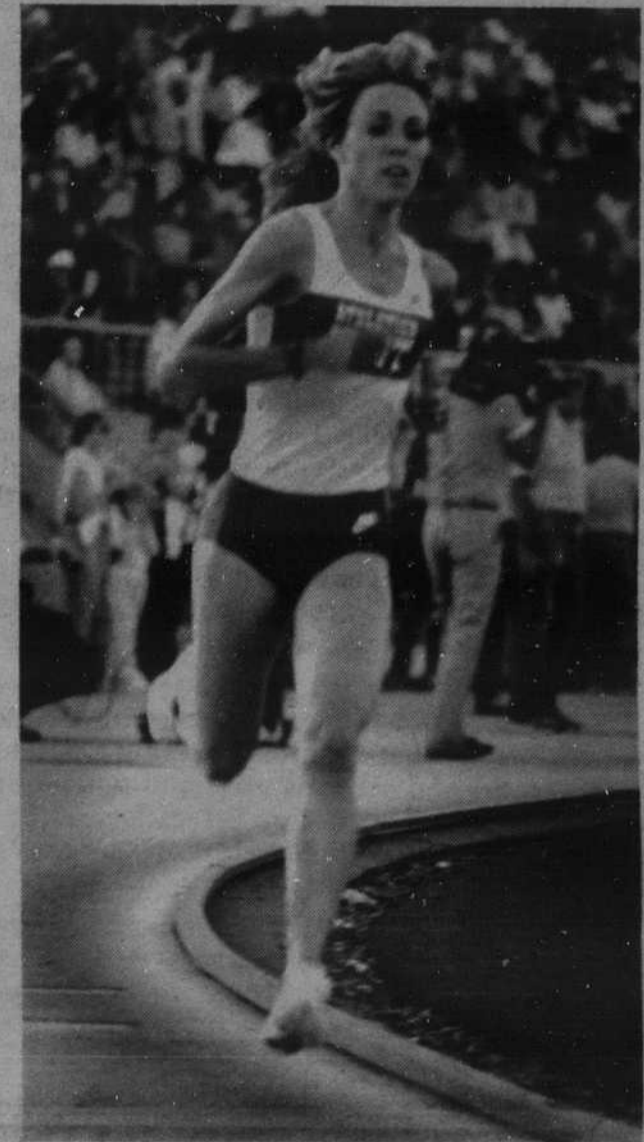
The group tried to select companies that manufacture machines of greatest use to the college community, Perry said.

"We hope that institutions will also try to help students select computers that will be best suited to their individual curriculums," Perry said. He also explained that the group will try to select computers for sale at individual bookstores that will see the greatest demand at those particular schools based on curricular offerings — "whether for arts, liberal arts and humanities, science, engineering or what-have-you," Perry said.

Spencer said that IBM computers are regarded as a kind of "standard" for the industry, and thus firms that manufacture computers whose software is "not 100 percent compatible" with IBM computers were not considered.

Hewlett-Packard was an exception to this stipulation, Spencer said, because of the highly technical nature of its products. Spencer said that H-P computers and software are especially useful to students and staff in science, math, engineering and other technically-related subjects.

"The whole learning environment starts to change when you use these computers," Rusch said. "It has an amazing effect on education when professors start using them in classes and students use them for study." Rusch added that he knows of at least two dozen universities around the country that all but require students to have a microcomputer.



## World record

Friday night was a time for celebration as Mary Decker tuned up for her Olympic 3,000-meter race, scheduled for Wednesday, with a world-record 5:32.7 clocking in the 2,000-meter run before the hometown fans.

Photo by Michael Clapp

## Professors implement program in American studies

By Mike Sims  
Of the Emerald

University Associate Profs. Barbara Mossberg (English) and Allan Winkler (history) have journeyed abroad to teach courses in American Studies, each spending a full academic year at the University of Finland.

They agree that it was sobering to realize they could not offer their students at the University what they were able to give students 5,000 miles from the American shores: an interdisciplinary, scholarly look at Americana.

When Mossberg returned from Finland following the 1982-83 school year, she and Winkler began to develop an idea that bore fruit in July when the State Board of Higher Education approved implementation of a University Bachelor of Arts degree program in American Studies.

Major and minor programs in American Studies will be offered at the University beginning in the fall of 1985. Mossberg will teach a "preview" 100-level course, entitled "Topics in American Studies" this fall. Students intending to enter either the major or minor



Photo by Hank Trotter  
Profs. Barbara Mossberg and Allan Winkler have devised a program designed to give students a scholarly look at being American and a B.A. degree as well.

program in 1985 are urged to enroll in the introductory course.

American Studies was first established as a major at Yale University in the late 1940s. According to Mossberg and Winkler, most major American universities offer American Studies programs.

Oregon State University offers a program through its College of Liberal Arts, though not with the same intensity as that

of the proposed University program, Mossberg says.

OSU offers no "core" courses and only provides an avenue for students to take a variety of courses for American Studies credit. Higher education staff assured the board at its July meeting that the University proposal would not duplicate OSU's American Studies program.

Mossberg and Winkler said they received "positive, en-

thusiastic response" from everyone they dealt with in implementing their program proposal, from the University Assembly up to the higher-education board.

Students enrolled in American Studies can examine any or all aspects of American culture, integrating courses from other disciplines into their individual programs of study.

Studies in American literature, history, art and architecture, as well as political science, sociology and psychology are combined toward answering basic questions such as: What does it mean to be an American? How and why have we developed as we have?

American Studies students will be able to focus on individual themes and topics. "The program is very flexible to student needs and ambitions," Winkler says.

For example, if a student wished to focus upon urban American life, he or she could take existing courses in urban architecture, political science, and sociology, Mossberg says. The student could also take literature courses that feature the works of such writers as

Studs Terkel, Ralph Ellison and other American authors who specialize in urban themes.

Degree candidates will be required to complete existing University requirements for a B.A. degree. They must also complete a 45-credit major in American Studies with a 2.25 grade point average.

Majors will be required to complete a three-course sequence (three hours each) in Introduction to American Studies, and 30 hours (21 upper division) of history, literature, arts and letters, and social science. A three-hour senior seminar and a 25-page senior thesis round out the degree requirements.

"We think of courses in, say, 15th-century French culture as worthwhile, but not how we Americans live, how we think, how we dream," Mossberg says. "We take these for granted; we don't see them in historical or cultural context."

Mossberg and Winkler, who will spend the 1984-85 school year teaching at the University of Amsterdam, hope that through the American Studies program, students will gain a clearer and broader insight into the American experience.