

Telecourses offer credits for watching TV

By Diana Elliot

Of the Emerald

With midterms just around the corner, many people have reluctantly given up the ritual of television for the ritual of studying.

But now, thanks to a new course offered through the biology department, students can have the best of both worlds.

A telecourse, based on Oregon Public Broadcasting's 12-part series, "The Living

around the world making films, Cook says.

"It almost seems a scandal not to take advantage of it," he says.

This isn't the first time students have been offered credit for watching television at the University. Two years ago, the history department offered a telecourse in conjunction with the airing of "The Winds of War," a network mini-series based on World War II, says Paul Katz, program coordinator

"We're victims of inertia," Murphy says. "We feel comfortable where we are, and we're reluctant to join a fad."

But eventually universities will be moving in that direction, Murphy says. "After all, the whole thrust of education is to talk about ideas, so why not present those ideas by film instead of by lecture?" he says.

Next fall, the biology department will offer a course first aired on public television two years ago. The University purchased 13 programs out of the 27-part series, "The Life on Earth."

The class is designed for first year biology majors and will be taught in a classroom setting. Students will watch the film and have access to an instructor, Murphy says.

Aside from presenting material in a more stimulating way, the new class has another purpose. In the past, biology majors haven't taken biology classes until their junior year. Now they'll have contact with a biology professor during their first year without taking the more difficult upper-division courses.

Telecourses needn't be limited to biology and history

departments, Cook says. "There are a lot of subjects that could be dealt with in this way," he says.

This first telecourse may be just a beginning for the biology department. Murphy predicts if the class is successful, similar courses will be added in the

near future.

Registration and orientation for Sunday's telecourse will be tomorrow at 7 p.m. in Room 138 Gilbert Hall. The course, which ends April 25, costs \$98. Contact the Continuation Center at 686-4231 for more information.

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Planet: A Portrait of the Earth," which begins Sunday, will earn students two credits for watching the program, attending meetings, and completing reading assignments and a take-home examination.

Biology Prof. Stanton Cook, who will teach the course, believes colleges aren't using public television like they should.

Producers have the huge budgets necessary to travel

of the Continuation Center.

Community colleges and even high schools have been using television as a teaching tool for years, says Gordon Murphy, academic administrative assistant in the biology department. But the University hasn't got in to the act yet.

Murphy believes one reason universities have been reluctant to use television is because many college professors believe television is just a trend.

ASUO seeks elections chair

With the inauguration of President Ronald Reagan little more than a week behind us, it's now time to turn our attentions back to campus and focus on another election — that of the 1985-86 ASUO Executive.

Members of that office are seeking a person to serve as chair of the Elections Board, which supervises the annual elections.

The elections chair will be responsible for hiring the remaining four members of the board. The five-person committee, along with the ASUO vice president, will establish election rules, publicize the elections, produce a voter's guide, supervise the polling process, and participate in the final ballot count.

Interested persons should contact the ASUO in Suite 4, EMU or call 686-3724. Deadline for submitting applications has been extended until Friday at 5 p.m.

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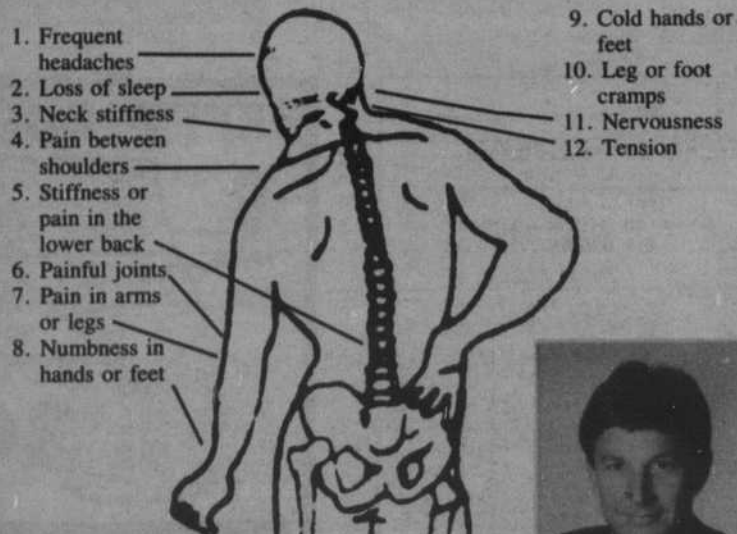
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INFORMATION TABLE:

Tues.-Wed., Feb. 5-6

Lobby, EMU 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

SCHEDULED INTERVIEWS:

Wed., Thurs., Feb. 20-21

Career Planning & Placement - Hendricks Hall
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sign up in advance and bring your completed application to the interview. For more information, call, (503) 686-3235.