

Using All the Newest Technology...



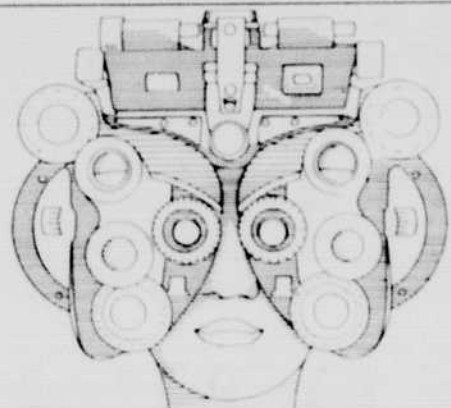
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## Robo-student?

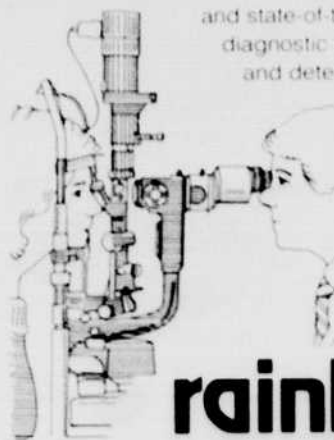
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## Computer capabilities climb

It can send a message to someone across the world faster than mail or fax. It can also be your own personal library and get you access to information you need — anywhere and anytime.

Hate the hassle of going to class but want an education? It converts to a private tutor.

It is the computer. If typing term papers and operating spreadsheets are the only computer attributes you're aware of, it's time to realize just how powerful its potential is and what it can do for you.

Consider portable computers that connect to data bases and library networks around the country, things that can greatly increase your power of research. Then there are video discs which, when inserted into the computer, provide visual and audio instructional material.

Or how about a sophisticated method to compute your own stack of indices and update your personal reference material data base. And the latest in the computer revolution that connects us all and makes the world a smaller place is electronic mail (sending mail via computer around the world with just the touch of a few keys).

But all this is just the tip of the industry's technological iceberg. Expect to see whiz innovations in the next few years, said Lawrence Fincher, vice provost of information resources and services.

"Computer technology is evolving in ways and at a rate that's going to magnify the already enormous impact computers have on our lives," Fincher said. "Sending and retrieving documents and information has never been more efficient, and sophisticated computers are revolutionizing the world of communications."

Today, you can have private access to E-Mail just by purchasing such commercial services as Comuserve or Prodigy.

Fincher hopes to see increased student awareness and usage of computers beyond the typing of term papers, but he said that this can only be achieved if the University is more robust in its efforts to keep abreast of and provide stu-



Photo by Jeff Paslay

With new programs and capabilities, computers continue to push us into new realms.

dent access to the latest in computer services. Fincher added that on other campuses, there are computer information exchange groups who

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—Lawrence Fincher,

Vice provost of information resources and services

work to integrate advances in computer technology with the college environment.

"It's especially important for students to be in the know-how of computer technology so they can employ it to their best advantage in their work," Fincher said.

—Ming Rodrigues

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## TRAINS

Continued from Page 1B

A TGV-type train between Portland and Eugene would cost between \$2.3 billion and \$3 billion. Because there isn't a high enough demand for such technology in the Northwest, it is unlikely that funding would be approved.

"High speed rail requires a high number of people moving between two endpoints," Immel said. "As of now, we don't have those numbers in the state of Oregon."

If more people were willing to give up the "personal freedom" of the automobile, there would be a greater need for a high-tech, mass-transit system. Baldwin suggested that "money wasted on fossil fuels could pay for the system."

Immel sees things differently. He says the trains could be financed "if the gasoline tax was doubled and every cent was used to build the system for five years, assuming highways would require no maintenance during that time."

For now, it is safe to say that Oregonians can look forward to improvements in Amtrack train service and to studies of high-speed rail possibilities.

—Christina Komeshian

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