Media critic proposes cures for education

By Justin Brown

Today's universities need to both depoliticize and deprofessionalize themselves while becoming defenders of the literate tradition, a media and education critic said Mon-

day night.

Neil Postman delivered his speech, "The Role of the University in American Education," to a room full of students and faculty at the University's School of Music. Postman is a professor of communication arts and sciences at New York University:

The Universities in America made a very bad mistake by developing more and more vocational training," Postman said. Postman said he believes uni-

versities have specialized education in order to respond to the technological development that has occurred over the last 60 years. He cited business administration as one example of a program that has tended to professionalize universities.

Postman said he believes students need to learn more than just a profession.

"We need to be able to read and write lucidly and read with understanding," Postman said, adding that he would like to see a return to a curriculum of more liberal arts, including history, religion, and philosophy.

Postman also said to be weary of the trend of multiculturalism and the political forces behind them. He strongly believes that different minority and ethnic groups should be included in curriculum only if their works are excellent.

While wanting Universities to return to more liberal traditions, Postman also said that universities should "become the last bastian of defense for the literate tradition. We

definition of Intelligence to deal with the written word," Postman said.

Postman has been a long-time advocate of oral tradition and print media. He believes print to be much more beneficial to society than visual mediums such as television.

In fact, Postman believes that visual technology has hurt the American educational system.

"We have two curriculums in competition - school and television - and right now television is beating the bejesus out of school," Postman said.

Postman said students in grades 1 through 12 spend almost 13,000 hours in school, compared with watching 19,000 hours of television.

"By the age of 21, the average American will have seen 1 million television commercials, he said. "Television is a visual for immediate gratification, while school is a delayed grati-

Postman said that in school students are taught that solving complex problems take a long, often challenging thought proevision is too simple and easy for this type of thinking to hap-

Postman, author of 16 books, including Amusing Ourselves to Death. He is currently working on two new books, Technopoly and How to Watch a Television News Show. His speech, sponsored by the School of Music, the School of Journalism, and the College of Education, concluded his first visit to Oregon.

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Conference fee - \$20.00 payable the day of workshop Saturday lunch provided

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Preparation of U.S. Tax Returns for Income Taxes

Thursday, February 20, 1992 3:00-5:00 p.m. **EMU Fir Room**

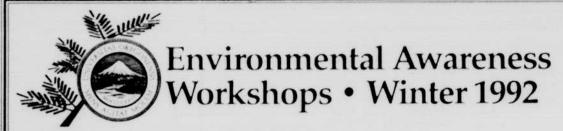
Resource People: Susan Gary, Tax Attorney Ginny Stark, International Student Adviser Ennis Wuite, Certified Public Accountant Tina Zamora, UO Accounting Graduate

U.S. Tax Forms, 1040 NR, and instruction booklets will be provided.

Participants should bring with them their W-2 forms, December 31 paycheck stubs, and other documents needed to help them complete their state tax forms.

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Strategies for Interpreters—February 21-22

This is an excellent course for tour guides and outdoor leaders. It is designed to provide specific information and tested techniques to help participants learn about the environment and gain skills to become "fountains of information." Collection, organization and presentation of natural and historic material will be main topics.

Coastal Lakes—February 28-29, March 1

2 credits. Fee: \$150 plus \$25 travel.

Large and small lakes along Oregon's coast provide an interesting and informative field-lab for the study of plants, animals, history and geology. This workshop will explore preservation and use issues, recreational opportunities and resource values, as well as the historical and geological significance of these exceptional resources

Coastal Mammals: Seals and Sea Lions-March 6-7-8

2 credits. Fee: \$150 plus \$50 travel.

The Oregon Coast is home to a variety of mammals both marine and terrestrial. This field-lab will examine their evolution and habitats with an on-site look at this exciting and dynamic environment Weather permitting, this field-lab will include a whale watching tour by boat. Plant life, geology and vast recreational opportunities will also be sovered.

Bohemia Mines and Brice Creek--March 13-14-15

2 credits. Fee: \$150 plus \$25 travel.

The discovery of gold in the Bohemia Mines area created a rich and colorful history, ripe for explora-tion. This workshop will not only cover the flora and fauna of the Bohemia Mines area but will also explore the lower elevation Brice Creek area for a unique combination of study resources.

Oregon Rivers—March 20-21-22

2 credits. Fee: \$150 plus \$30 travel.

This workshop will investigate the exciting oparian environments of Oregon's rivers. Field-labs on local rivers offer firsthand exposure to help students gain an understanding of the problems, relationships, concepts and opportunities for river activities. Studies of plants, animals, history and river geology will broaden the students' awareness of Oregon's waterways.

South Coast: Spring Break-March 26-27-28-29

3 credits. Fee: \$225 plus \$30 travel. Limit 15 students. (overnight) Study at the edge of the continent to gain knowledge about Oregon's spectacular and varied coastline.

To register for any of these workshop or for more information, stop by the UO Continuation Center at 333 Oregon Hall or simply call:

346-4231