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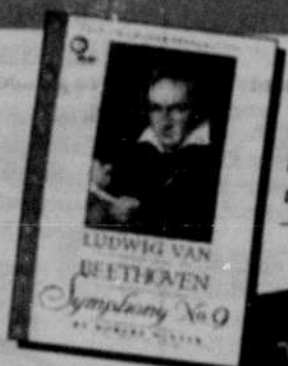
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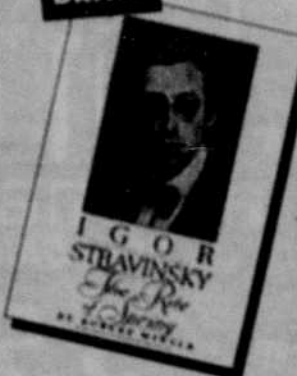
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Campuses may join to offer degrees

■ **EDUCATION:** The University would link with Oregon State and Portland State

By Jean M. Bond
Higher Education Reporter

New joint-campus graduate programs in software engineering and environmental science, studies and policy could be coming to the University, said Shirley Clark, vice chancellor of academic affairs for the Oregon State System of Higher Education.

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education is discussing the two joint-campus programs along with other new graduate programs for state campuses, she said.

The joint-campus programs would be cooperative efforts between the University of Oregon, Oregon State University and Portland State University, Clark said. Other programs discussed include an Oregon State master's program in physical therapy and occupational therapy and a Portland State master's of music degree in performance or conducting.

The new programs are at the pre-proposal stage of discussion. Formal plans are being developed and the programs will be officially proposed later.

"The board responded with interest to each of the proposals," Clark said.

The software engineering program could begin as early as fall 1997, University provost John Moseley said.

"The board was more than positive on this," Moseley said. "There is a very clear need for this in the industry, a strong student demand and very

good jobs available."

New legislative funding will be needed to implement the software engineering program, but state legislators should recognize the demand in this field merits funding the program, he said.

The environmental studies graduate programs would differ from campus to campus, but will use resources from all the campuses, Clark said. The institutions plan to work together to acquaint students with resources at all the campuses. Exact plans defining how the universities will work together have not been made.

The University of Oregon would offer a doctorate in environmental sciences, studies and policy, while Oregon State would offer master's and doctorate degrees in environmental science, and Portland State would offer a master's in environmental science and a master's in environmental management, she said. The University already offers bachelor's and master's degrees in environmental studies.

"Oregon has a national reputation for being very conscious of both conservation and use of environmental resources," Clark said.

The next step for the new programs is to create a formal plan, she said. "In effect, the proposers received the blessing of the board to continue the planning process."

After plans are developed, external review teams will look at the proposals and evaluate the capacity of the universities to provide quality programs, Clark said.

"Look for a flurry of activity about this in the coming months," she said.

ET — phone home; turn on appliances

CHICAGO (AP) — It's a sweltering summer day, and your house will be an oven by the time you get home from work. Now, imagine turning on your air conditioner with just a telephone call from the office.

The idea isn't that farfetched. Ameritech Corp. and Commonwealth Edison announced a "smart home" test program that will allow Chicago-area customers to turn an air conditioner, a heater, even a washing

stranger THAN FICTION

machine on and off over the phone.

The service will be available to 2,000 Chicago-area homes by year's end. Ameritech and Wisconsin Energy Corp. will also offer the feature to at least 200 homes in southeastern Wisconsin.

Five or six major appliances and the thermostat in each

household will be wired so that a homeowner can call home and punch in a code to turn an appliance on or off.

During the experimental stage — it's not clear how long that will last — the service will be free. The price after that has not been determined.

Home automation has come a long way since the Clapper. Appliances already can be controlled from one console and operated by telephone. But such systems can cost \$5,000 to \$1 million per home.

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