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## K-2, Savage Mountain

Continued from cover

mountain's serene beauty as seen from afar is transformed into a heaving, overpowering mass.

"The climb begins. Weeks pass as six camps are strung up the peak. Each is stocked with loads borne on bodies that gasp and ache in the thinning air. Finally, the assault team—the strongest and most skilled climbers—arrive in the high camp. In the morning darkness they push upward. Hours later, the work comes. Success!

"Skill, strength and logistics do not alone portend victory. There is more to overcome. Numbed minds warp as brains struggle for oxygen. Distorted emotions and behavior tilt easily toward love or hostility, camaraderie or rebellion. Human relationships become fragile; fatigue dims reason and tolerance. But, as the mountain weakens, so does it strengthen. It is the enemy, the goal that unites weary bodies and cloudy minds for the ultimate effort to the summit.

"K-2 is cruel, unforgiving. A sudden storm or thundering avalanche can, in a few moments, spell unforeseen disaster. A faltering foothold or momentary miscalculation can send a climber plunging thousands of feet downward into immortality.

"Taylor and Harold (of the drama K-2) were aware of K-2's strength and of their own human weaknesses. They knew mountaineers have two ultimate goals—success and survival. They were to achieve only one."

The above description is by Les Anderson who was on K-2 during the 1978 American Expedition led

by Jim Whittaker. Four climbers reached the top, three without oxygen. They all returned.

The drama K-2, written by Patrick Meyers and directed by George Lauris, opens Friday, Oct. 11, in the Hult Center's Soreng Theater and runs through Oct. 19. K-2 features three actors: Richard Scheeland as the tough and cynical Taylor, and Will Shindler as the kind and meditative Harold. The third actor is the mountain itself, designed by Jerry Williams, who has gone beyond the ordinary levels of theatrical design. The Soreng stage will be almost entirely occupied by an enormous facsimile of the face of K-2. The set, constructed by Skip Hubbard, rises from the orchestra pit to 30 feet above the stage floor. The climbing sequences are re-creations of actual events. To prepare for their roles, the actors have spent weeks with mountaineering consultant Chuck Solin, learning the techniques of high altitude climbing.

From the comfort of your theatre seat you will experience a play in "real-time." The time it takes to move about the set is the time it would take to move on the face of K-2. The actors are engaged in the re-creation of an action, not its illusion. The actors you watch must face the "background noise of climbing" . . . fear, injury or worse!

K-2 is the opening production of a four show season for Oregon Repertory Theatre. The season will also include *Greater Tuna*, *The Lion in Winter*, and *A . . . My Name is Alice*. For tickets call 687-5000.

## What's HAPPENING

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The Sampler Program is a cooperative effort of Oregon Repertory Theater, Eugene Symphony Orchestra, Eugene Ballet, Eugene Opera! and the Hult Center for the Performing Arts.

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