

Gay Peoples Alliance sponsors sock hop

Gay Peoples Alliance (GPA) is kicking off its fall activities this week with "Gay Coming Out Week" featuring a pot-luck dinner and a Friday night "Gay-Straight 50's Sock Hop."

"The gay movement is exploding at the University this fall and in response to this boom,

GPA is sponsoring "Gay Coming Out Week" for new and returning students who haven't been involved in GPA before," said Randy Shilts, a former GPA chairer and coordinator of the week's events.

"While GPA does carry on political education and action, we also have a strong social role for gay people," Shilts said. "So gay people in the community can get to know GPA, we are sponsoring a pot-luck dinner at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at 1236 Kincaid," Shilts said.

This dinner will precede the regular 8 p.m. GPA meeting, he said. At the meeting the group will discuss the gay rights bill that will be voted on by the City Council this fall. This bill, approved last January by the Eugene Human Rights Commission, would prohibit

discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, Shilts said. GPA will also discuss plans for a 'Gay Pride Week' later this fall, he said.

"On Friday night at 8:30 p.m., we will top off our Coming Out Week with a 'Gay-Straight 50's Sock Hop' in the EMU ballroom," Shilts said. "Everyone gay or straight is welcome to this event featuring the hopping music of the 50s," he said.

"If you are gay," Shilts said, "remember you are not immoral, you are not perverted, you are not sick — most of all, you are not alone. Check out Gay Coming Out Week," he said.

Gay Coming Out week is the first campus event sponsored by GPA since the group became ASUO funded in July. For further information contact the GPA office in 305 EMU.

Alternatives offered by Free University

By TONI SARGENT
Of the Emerald

Were you disappointed when, upon trying to register for the yoga class that just fit between Anthro and Psych, you found it closed? Upset because the University doesn't have a more imaginative class content?

Take heart; the Lane County Free University is starting classes this week, and perhaps they've got a class you'd like to round out your schedule. Open to anyone who can get together the \$3.50 requested to register, the curriculum includes belly dancing, basic music theory, wilderness survival, a puppet theater group, and "the farm experience," as well as a chance to get acquainted with the Eugene community. For a complete listing of classes, free catalogs can be obtained at various places in the community: book stores, record stores and from the Free University itself. Registration may be accomplished by mail or by coming to the Free University, at 25 W. 7th St., Eugene, from noon until 4, Monday through Saturday, until Oct. 16.

This alternative to higher education has been functioning for three years, since its founding in the summer of 1969, when it featured 70 classes and attracted 900 students. It is one of the older "institutions" in the alternative community. In Nov., the Free University will be forced to vacate the premises it has occupied since spring of 1972, because of conflicts with adjoining property owners. Because some classes are held in the homes of the facilitators or members, the Free University will continue to function, but Bill and Cindy Wooten, coordinators for the University, are school-house hunting anyway.

The University catalog offers 34 classes in all, and plans to attract between 300 and 400 students. This reflects, as Bill Wooten explains, not decreasing interest, but the growth of Eugene's alternative community organization, which is now better able to meet many specific needs. The University of Oregon, too, has expanded its curriculum to previously uncovered subject areas, such as women's studies, which at the time of the organization of the Free University was not represented.

Wooten sees this development as a necessary progression of an alternative culture establishing itself in a town as receptive as Eugene. Wooten sees Eugene as a special place, citing "the high moral tone functioning (here)" and "liberal attitudes, probably connected with the University of Oregon. I remember seeing old pictures of people marching against the War in 1914, down Willamette St. I think that's what gave the alternative culture in Eugene its breathing room."

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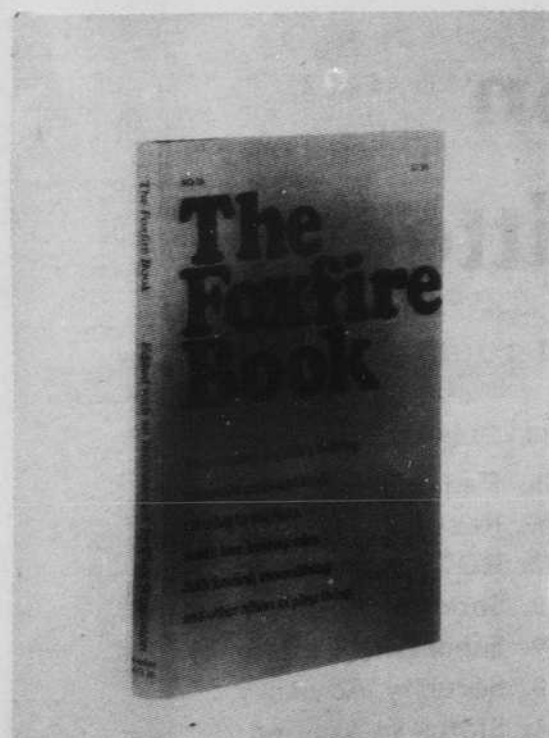
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This is the authentic book on living off the land, a collection of material from the widely acclaimed Foxfire magazine, which is published by students from a high school in central Georgia. The Students go into the Appalachians to interview the mountain people, recording their impressions with tape recorders and cameras, in an effort to preserve both the skills and folklore that are a rapidly dying part of our American heritage. What emerges from this material is not just a clear idea about living off the land, but also a simple, positive philosophy of what is basic to life.

Contents include: "This is the way I was raised up."; Aunt Arie and Hillard Green; Wood; Tools and Skills; Building Your Own Log Cabin; Making a Basket out of White Oak Splits; Chair, Bed Quilt, and Soap Making; Mountain Recipes; Preserving Fruits and Vegetables; Churning Your Own Butter; Slaughtering Hogs; Weather Signs; Planting by the Signs; Home Remedies; Hunting; Snake Lore; Moonshining as a Fine Art; and Faith Healing.

Eliot Wigginton teaches English at the Rubum Gap-Nocoochee School, where he originated and acted as faculty supervisor of Foxfire magazine.

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A collection of all new material from the same people who created the best seller The Foxfire Book. This volume introduces new friends like Maud Shope and Kenny Runion; new crafts, from beekeeping to wheel and wagon building to wild plant foods; and new insights into the affairs of plain living—ghost stories, burial customs, midwives and corn shuckin's. A thorough section on weaving begins with raising and shearing the sheep and even includes instructions for making the loom and spinning wheel yourself. As in the original Foxfire Book (now The Foxfire Book 1), the result is "an unabashed chronicle . . . of the trials and pleasures, customs and folkways, tools and crafts of country living." (The New York Times)

Eliot Wigginton teaches journalism at the Rubum Gap-Nocoochee School.



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