

November rush crowds chances for holiday travel

By LORRAINE NELSON
Of the Emerald

School will be out in three weeks and most of us will be left with something we all deserve — a vacation.

What to do with all that free time and where to do it may not be nearly so complicated as how to get there.

Conflict rises over judgeships

Oregon Congressmen have engaged in some heavy politicking over two newly created federal judgeships in Oregon.

U.S. Reps. Al Ullman, Bob Duncan, Jim Weaver and Les AuCoin have all signed a recommendation to Pres. Jimmy Carter to appoint Oregon Attorney General Jim Redden and Bend attorney Owen Panner to the new posts. That action is tantamount to a final decision.

Eugene residents and statewide women's groups, on the other hand, have pushed Lane County Circuit Judge Helen Frye.

Following a lengthy meeting in Washington, D.C., between Ullman, Duncan and Weaver, the decision was made to recommend Panner and Redden.

Weaver said Tuesday that he has an "absolute commitment" from Ullman and Duncan to include Frye's name on a list of persons who will be recommended on an equal basis to replace U.S. District Judge Otto Skopil, should Skopil be appointed to a vacancy on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Weaver said including Frye's name on that list should guarantee her appointment to the district court bench.

The recommendation on the circuit court appointment, however, will be made by an independent commission being formed now by the U.S. Justice Department, rather than by the Democratic Oregon delegation to Congress, as is the case for district court positions.

A spokesman for Ullman said Frye had certainly been discussed at the meeting but that no agreement on her had been reached. Pat Amedeo, spokeswoman for Duncan, said she was unable to confirm or deny that an agreement on Frye was made and that Duncan was unavailable for comment.

Frye had no comment on the availability of Skopil's seat. "I am a very serious candidate for the two positions I know are currently available," she said.

By far, the cheapest method of travel for students wanting to get out of Eugene for the holidays, is to get a ride with others who are driving to or near your destination.

The ride board in the basement of the EMU and Switchboard's Ride Line (345-7600) are two excellent places to find a ride to almost anywhere in the country. Most people request that you share driving and gas.

If you can't find anyone going your way or if you just detest jazz, scorpions or pot smokers, you may decide not to take any chances and opt for a different way to travel.

Between Airwest and United, Amtrak, Greyhound and Trailways, no part of this country should be unreachable.

The Christmas holiday season however, is the busiest time of the year for the airlines in Eugene and Gayle Norris of Adventure in Travel reports the planes are "incredibly booked."

"Right now you cannot get a seat out of Eugene going south during the holidays," she says.

Airwest or United fly north to Portland and Seattle and south to San Francisco, L.A. and San Diego. Connections with most major airlines can be made in any of these cities.

Norris says the only way to save money on flights out of Eugene is to make reservations at least 30 days in advance. Discounts range anywhere from 10 to 50 percent of full prices, depending upon the length of time you are staying and the day of week you are traveling.

There are no night flights out of Eugene, but those out of Portland and San Francisco offer discounts of up to 50 percent.

A one-way ticket for holiday travel between Eugene and New York City, if reservations were made today, would cost \$227 to \$233. A round-trip ticket for the same flight, booked in advance, would cost \$275 to \$280.

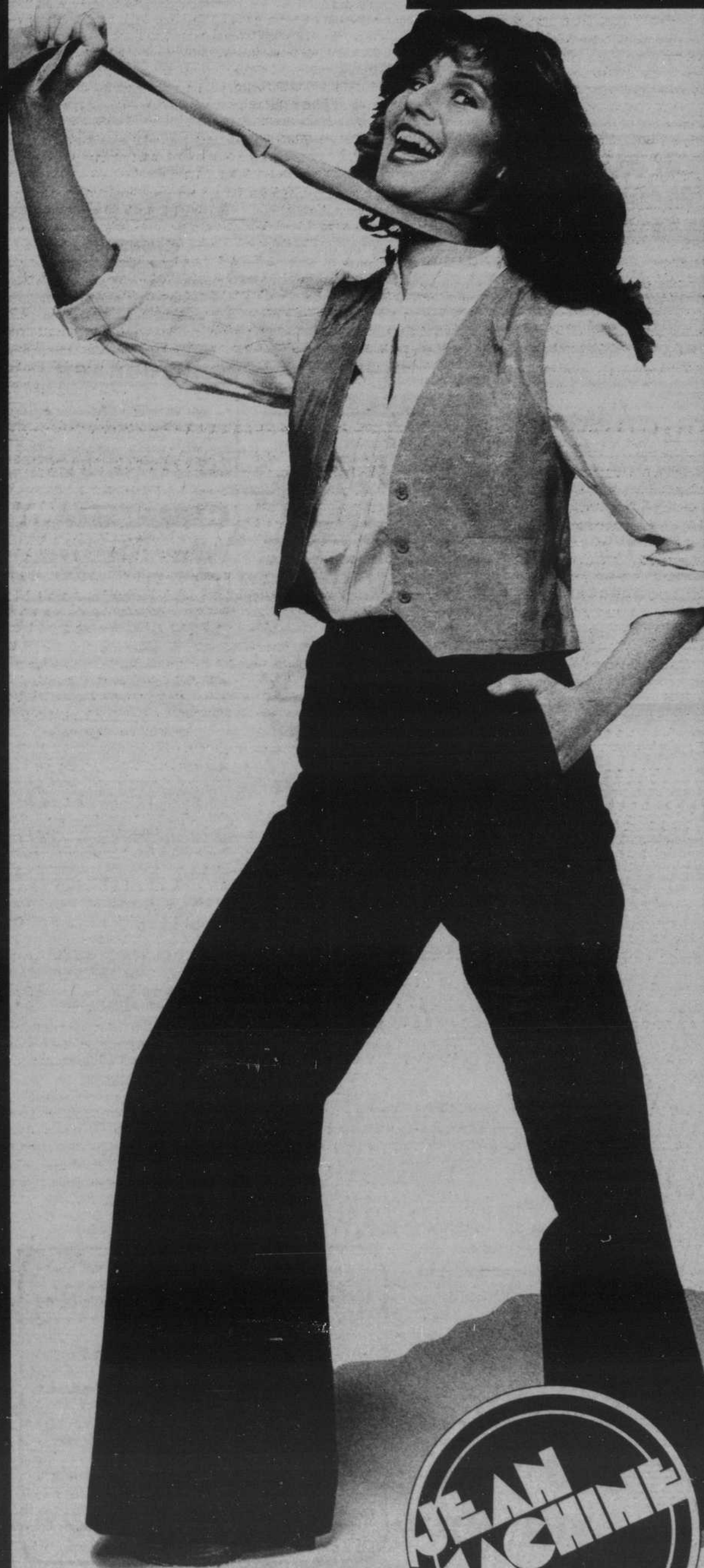
Amtrak excursions up and down the coast are great, but for longer rides, the fares are as much as or even more than those for flying.

Greyhound will take you to San Francisco for \$39.65, Amtrak for \$44, but to fly will cost \$67. If you need a round-trip ticket for the Denver area however, the prices for all three are about the same.

Greyhound reports the buses are very crowded even now and Norris says Amtrak southbound routes for San Francisco are sold out for some days.

Eugene also has more than 10 travel agencies and contrary to a common misconception, travel agencies don't charge extra fees to customers. They receive commissions from those companies in the transportation industry.

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