



Splash



Photo by Kenneth Balcomb

Ocean environmentalists create waves in Eugene

An inland location hasn't stopped the Greenpeace Foundation from incorporating ocean issues into local environmental concerns. The foundation opened its Eugene office in February.

Greenpeace was founded in 1970 as a non-profit organization in Vancouver, B.C. Its original purpose was to protest the Amchitka Island, Alaska, underground nuclear bomb tests then being conducted by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

A fleet of ships sailed around Amchitka demonstrating against the blasts, and the test site was closed soon after. Greenpeace continued to protest the bomb tests until 1974.

The organization next turned its attention to the plight of the great whales, and started building its present reputation as an aggressive defender of ocean life.

Greenpeace-sponsored vessels sailed out to confront Russian whalers off the coast of California in 1975, maneuvering two-person motorboats called "Zodiacs" between the Russian fleet and the whales.

In 1976, the tactic paid off when the Russians refused to kill any whales while the Greenpeace ships were nearby. They then refused to sail within 700 miles of the west coast.

Greenpeace traveled to Newfoundland in 1976 to protest the methods used to kill harp seal pups there. In a publicized encounter, its members joined those of the International Fund for Animal Welfare to confront the seal hunters on the ice floes. They succeeded in lowering the number of baby seals slaughtered.

Greenpeace hopes to bring the same awareness of marine life to the Eugene area. It is co-sponsoring this week's Ocean Symposium: Ocean '79, with the University Survival Center, and will hold a "Whole Earth Celebration Benefit" Saturday at the Olde Dexter Theater in Dexter, Ore., Highway 58.

The foundation depends upon a volunteer staff to make its concerns known to the public. Interested persons can contact the office at 454 Willamette, 687-8121.

Recreation program awaits accreditation

By TAMARA SWENSON
Of the Emerald

"The work that play makes" may be the best way to describe a collegiate recreation and park management department.

But just how well the University teaches students to do that work is what the National Recreation and Park Association's Council on Accreditation will review after it completes its survey of the department today.

The council has spent this week reviewing the program's emphasis, services, facilities and curriculum, says Department Head Larry Neal, to determine whether the University can match up to accreditation standards.

This is the first time the department has tried for accreditation from the NRPA council, which was formed in 1975. The on-site visit by the team is the final step in the accreditation procedure.

Neal figures only 50 of the 429 colleges and universities that offer recreation and park management will receive the coveted accreditation, leaving the rest to "straighten up, or get out."

He says the University department has every intention of being one of the 50, and adds that even though he doesn't want to inflate the importance of being accredited, a formal endorsement of the recreation and park management training is needed.

In a country that spends a large percentage of its income on recreation and leisure there is a definite need for recreation awareness and organization, Neal says.

He is concerned about the training of park and recreation professionals and says recreation programs must present a balanced program, diverse yet representative of community interests.

"A parent wants to feel a degree of confidence when they send a child to a playground or community center," Neal says. "If they use any equipment in a park area, they want the assurance that it is properly planned, designed and maintained."

It follows that they want the people in charge to be well-trained, competent professionals, he adds.

The playgrounds are not the

only places that trained recreation professionals are needed Neal says. In leisure-oriented society, professionals are needed to organize community recreation programs, symphony and choir groups, cultural arts and community education programs, such as crafts classes and belly dancing, he says.

Neal urges divergence, pointing out that most community recreation programs cannot afford a specialist for every service offered. So the professional must be prepared to be the advocate for everything, he says.

Students in the University's undergraduate Recreation and Park Management program are required to have an extensive liberal arts background, which Neal says helps students advocate for leisure pursuits.

He says it would be foolish to consider sports the only area of

recreation, because even coloring books and television are leisure activities. "In fact," he says, "anything that is not directly related to a person's work is a leisure activity."

And Americans are devoting more time to leisure. Recreation is creeping into the work force and unions, Neal says, are focusing on employment benefits. "Some labor negotiations are seeking more in the way of time off and hours than they are dollars."

Recreation is a necessary part

of the American way of living, Neal says. "And when we receive accreditation, it will be even more

apparent that the Recreation and Park Management Program is training these professionals."

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