



Travelling

Outdoor program: adventures galore

The swirling whitewater of the Nepalese river rushed by below as the man on the bank lay, an infection climbing up his leg.

There was no professional medical help for hundreds of miles, but massive doses of antibiotics eventually wiped out the infection.

Bruce Mason, coordinator of the University's Outdoor Program, says that adventure nearly cost him his leg, but gave him a different outlook on life. "I can't put it into words," he says.

Of course, not everyone wants to raft down a remote river that has never been run before, as Mason did.

Maybe a 25-mile bicycle ride out in the country is challenging enough. Or maybe kayaking down the Willamette is an adventure in itself.

Mason says the Outdoor Program is a good place to start. In fact, he was a graduate student in recreational management when he first began participating in the program.

The structure of the program makes it easy for the prospective camper, biker, hiker, skier or other outdoorist to sign up for a trip or outing.

For specific outings, whether they be to Nepal or Drain, interested persons fill out a trip sheet a few days or weeks in advance.

If other people are interested in that outing, all they do is sign up. No membership, no dues, no meetings, no officials, no catches.

This free-form minimalistic structure makes the program unique, Mason says.

"In Eugene it works," says Mason, "but in New York City, I'm not so sure," he says with a laugh.

The program, created in the late 1960s, was the inspiration for many other similar programs throughout the country.

It's also the biggest and probably the best, according to Mason.

By having paid staff members like himself, Mason says the program has enjoyed continuity and has developed a healthy relationship with companies



Emerald Photo

who supply outdoor equipment. A kayak worth over \$400 just donated by a local company lay on the floor of the program center.

The program is more than just taking outings. It has a resource library that Mason says is probably the largest in the state. There are free on-campus events sponsored by the program including speakers, films, instructional sessions and environmental symposiums and conferences.

The program has also been a trailblazer in keeping the wilderness in its natural state while enjoying it at the same time.

"No-trace" camping, in which the camp site is left as nearly the same as when found, was created by people in the program, Mason says.

The program has fought along with other groups to keep the French Pete valley from getting logged. It has been environmentally activist in other areas.

If Oregon is lucky enough to have an Indian summer, fair-weather activities like bicycling, kayaking and backpacking will continue through the fall, Mason says.

The program publishes a calendar of on-campus events at the beginning of each term, but Mason warns that there are usually more events that materialize after the term begins.

Calendars can be picked up at the Outdoor Program center, located in the corner of the loading zone on the south side of the EMU. Look for the painting of the kayaker on the outside wall of the center.

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| September 19 Welcome Students! 2 for one drinks | 20 KIR white wine and creme de cassis 1.50 | 21 Margaritas 1.75 | 22 Ladies Night! well drinks 1.00 | 23 Stinger 1.75 brandy and creme de menthe | 24 FOOTBALL DAY! Draft Beer 50¢ each bar opens at 4:00 pm! |
| 26 Draft Beer 75¢ | 27 LONG ISLAND TEA \$2.75 Rum, Gin, Vodka, secret ingredient | 28 wine coolers 75¢ | 29 Ladies Night! well drinks 1.00 | 30 Wild 7 1.50 | October 1 Cuba Libre 1.00 rum, coke and a squeeze of lime |
| 3 GIN FIZZ 1.00 | 4 Men's Night all well drinks are 1.00 | 5 Salty Dog 1.00! vodka, grapefruit, with salted rim | 6 Ladies Night! well drinks 1.00 | 7 Planter's Punch mixture of rum and tropical fruit juices 2.50 | 8 Football Saturday! Draft Beer 50¢ bar opens at 4:00 pm! |

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