

sidelines

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Spring means
it's time
for...



WHITEWATER RAFTING

SPRING OFFERS EUGENIANS THE OPPORTUNITY to escape the confines of campus and explore the Northwest — including its beautiful whitewater rivers.

But a lot of whitewater enthusiasts often stumble over the cost, or even where to find those whitewater rivers that offer a day of bliss filled contentment.

Although Eugene has a number of professional commercial outfitters who sell a vacation experience and assume all responsibility for the planning and preparation of the river trip, there are other possibilities if your cash flow is rather restricted at the moment.

Two inexpensive alternatives are the Eugene Parks and Recreation Department and

the University Outdoor Program. Each offers a different approach to running a whitewater river.

Co-op is the key word for Bruce Mason — a veteran whitewater enthusiast — and the Out-

**By Roman McCloskey
Emerald photos**

door Program, which he coordinates.

"We are not a rental agency or a class," emphasizes Mason. "Trips are run on a cooperative basis. It's a unique approach. The Outdoor Program served as a model for the rest of the nation."

The Outdoor Program's raft trips cost in-

dividuals less than \$10 a day. The training clinic which examines the philosophy of the program and the rules it operates under is free.

"The idea is a group comes together and divides up the chores. We have nine rafts available, and groups that use the rafts are responsible for replacement and repair," says Mason.

Mason stresses taking it slowly and going on a trip that's already been initiated. There is one trip each of the next five weeks on the McKenzie River.

"They are mainly instructional in nature, to give people a lot of experience on the river,"

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