

# Snow camping — a lesson worth learning

"Snow camping? — you're crazy," scoffed my parents, most of my friends and those professors who were gracious enough to let me spend a Friday trudging through the snow, instead of sleeping through class.

Ever since I got the physical education department's seal of approval, a red stamp on my registration computer sheet, I have been defending my decision to take this course and entertaining questions on how I was going to survive three days and two nights housed in a snow structure 5,600 feet above civilization.

"Wouldn't I freeze?" "What if the snow cave should collapse?" "How would I breathe in a bedroom constructed of frozen water?" At first I laughed off these questions that seemed so ridiculous. But then, as the term wore on, and the day drew closer, I started to think: "Would I freeze?" "Would it collapse?" "Would I be able to breathe?"

My fears were dispelled one weekend when I joined 18 other University students for a trip up to the Cascades to build snow structures for snow-camping class.

My structure didn't collapse. In fact, my cohorts and I had a difficult time destroying it. I was able to breathe (through holes 6 inches in diameter that let in 15-degree oxygen from outside), and freezing was the least of my problems.

I showed up at the meeting area, 6:15 a.m. on Feb. 15 with a three-day supply of bagels; cross-country skis lashed to my obnoxious orange backpack; and my release forms signed, which put all responsibility for injury or death on my shoulders.

Although I wasn't dressed in the latest state-of-the-art, light-

weight, synthetic styles for the trendy outdoor enthusiast, I did come clad in my polypropylene underwear and full layer of wool ready to take on any element that Mother Nature could dish out.

As it turned out, my warm clothes were more than enough protection from the cold, but they didn't prevent me from sliding down an icy slope that neither skis nor snowshoes could grip.

Along the two-and-one-half mile trek that took us straight up the mountain, I plodded along, slipping back two steps for every step I took. An occasional face-plant (characterized by my head buried in snow and the tail end of my skis jutting out from the white powder) made getting up especially difficult because the weight of my pack further compressed me into the mountain.

I became frightened by that adage "getting there is half the fun" and privately wondered if this wouldn't be a good time for the world to end.

When we finally arrived at our destination three hours behind schedule, there wasn't much time to pick and choose for the best real estate. My cavemates, Nicole and Michael, and I chose a location close to where we had dropped our packs and began piling snow that in hours would become our weekend home.

We dug, hollowed and smoothed until our pile of snow transformed into a spacious room for three. I was amazed at

how comfortable our little abode was and how the temperature remained a balmy 31 degrees when it was much colder outside.

I regretted having to move out of our snow cave the following day but was excited to move on to bigger and better things — igloos.

Unfortunately the snow wouldn't cooperate. After three hours of watching our delicately constructed ice blocks crumble at our fingertips, we gave up and ran back to our snow cave, conveniently located 50 yards away.

Once inside my former shelter, I felt relieved that I wasn't outside with the other groups furiously trying to build an igloo by flashlight.

But later, as I scanned the area, I was disappointed. Three or four other groups managed to finish their igloos that were glowing blue from the flickering candlelight from within. They looked cozy.



On the trek home on Sunday, I looked back on the events of the weekend and realized it was worth it. I survived the many hazards of snow camping.

I stayed alive eating bagels that were frozen to the core and drinking melted snow with floating lichen in it. I didn't suf-

fer from hypothermia or frostbite, but I did get a bit of a sunburn. And although I didn't master the art of skiing with a pack on, I did learn the proper technique for falling.

Story by Diana Elliott  
Graphic by Rob Kraft

## Watergate participant to speak Wednesday in EMU

G. Gordon Liddy will speak on "Government: Perception Vs. Reality" in the EMU Ballroom on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Called "the number one speaker in the country" by The New York Times, Liddy first gained notoriety for his involvement in the Watergate break-in and cover-up.

The former FBI agent worked for the Nixon administration doing "special duties" before becoming a counsel for the Committee to Re-Elect the President, where he worked until 1972.

Liddy was convicted of numerous offenses connected with the Watergate break-in and subsequent cover-up. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison in 1973.

During his trial, Liddy, unlike his co-conspirators, refused to testify about the break-in or other covert activities. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter commuted his sentence to eight years and he was released from prison in September, 1977.

Since then, Liddy has toured



G. Gordon Liddy

the country giving lectures. He has also written two books, "Out of Control," and his 1980 autobiography, "Will," which became a best seller.

Liddy's lecture, sponsored by the EMU Cultural Forum, will be followed by a question and answer period.

Coupons in the Emerald save you money.  
Check every page, every day. It pays.

## Concerts Continued from Page 9

"Jazz in the Afternoon" with Mapenzie, the Dennis St. Germain Trio and Helix from 4:30 to 7 p.m.; "Fiddlin' at the Hilton" with Wolf Creek, Big Sue and Wooden Windows from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.; and "Raggae 'til Midnight" with Strictly Roots. Bar refreshments and a dance floor will also be available.

Admission to the Hilton entertainment is on a donation basis. "For anything you can af-

ford to give, you can hear some of the best music in town," says Rundo.

The Hult Center is providing HOPE with use of the Silva Hall at a discounted price, and Hult staff members are donating their services for the day's festivities. In addition, the Hilton is donating lodging and meals for out-of-town performers.

Tickets are available at the Hult Center and at Hult Center outlets.

Coupon Coupon Coupon Coupon Coupon Coupon

**The Ultimate Kabob**  
**Buy One Dinner**  
**Get Another For \$1**

New from The Branding Iron, The Ultimate Kabob. It's a delicious Combination of marinated Top Sirloin chunks, Chicken Breast and Prawn skewered and broiled with fresh mushrooms, onions, and bell peppers. This delicious new dinner entree is served with rice pilaf or french fries, homemade soup or tossed greens and bread.

AND, FOR A LIMITED TIME, WHEN YOU BUY ONE ULTIMATE KABOB DINNER AT THE REGULAR PRICE OF \$8.95, YOU'LL GET ANOTHER KABOB DINNER FOR ONLY \$1. JUST PRESENT THIS COUPON WHEN ORDERING.

**BRANDING IRON**  
579 East Broadway, Eugene Phone 683-3626

Coupon Coupon Coupon Coupon Coupon Coupon

**SEARS Credit Card**  
Sears, Roebuck and Co.

0 00000 00000 0  
M LEWIS 0000

Use This Credit Card in Any Sears Store Anywhere

**One of the most valuable cards a student can carry**

A Sears Credit Card can be extremely helpful to you, especially if you're a junior, senior or graduate student. Because, aside from its immediate usefulness, a Sears Credit Card will help establish the credit background you will need after you graduate.

It's easier to get a Sears Credit Card than you might think. You don't need a big bank account or a regular job or even a diploma. If you are a responsible person with the ability to pay your bills, Sears believes you deserve credit and will handle it with care.

**It's smart to establish credit now**  
And it's wise to get a Sears Credit Card now while you're still in school. It will be useful to you right away, letting you get what you need when you need it. In addition, a Sears Charge Account could be your first step in building a credit history. A credit history that will help you get the credit you'll want when you leave school.

**No annual fee with a Sears Credit Card**  
Unlike some credit cards, there's no annual fee for a Sears Credit Card. And there are no hidden credit charges either — finance charges are always fully disclosed on your Sears statement.

**Get nationwide credit at Sears**  
There are over 3400 Retail and Catalog Stores all across the country and your Sears Credit Card is good at every one of them. This means wherever you live, travel or work — and wherever you may move — you have available credit at a nearby Sears.

**Over 100,000 fine products and services**  
With a Sears Credit Card you can choose from an enormous range of products and services, and just say "Charge it!" Everything from clothes and cameras, electronic games and calculators, to tires and a tune-up for your car. And all your merchandise purchases are backed by Sears famous promise, "Satisfaction Guaranteed or Your Money Back."

**Buy what you need when you're short on cash**  
Your Sears Credit Card lets you buy what you need when you need it, even though you may not have the cash on hand at that particular moment. You can take advantage of Sears special sales as well as everyday good values. And you can stretch your payments over many months if you wish.

**Shop from Sears catalogs when you're short on time**  
When you don't have time to get to a Sears Store, use your Sears Credit Card to order by phone from our famous catalogs. Just say "Charge it!" You can even arrange for delivery right to your door.

**Apply for a Sears Credit Card right on campus**

**DATE: Monday, Tuesday (3/4, 3/5)**  
**TIME: 10am-4pm**  
**PLACE: Main desk area**

There's more for your life at **SEARS**