

around this time of year is that while the air is hot the water is still quite cold, and it remains cold all summer long. When people get into cold water the temperature affects their reflexes, and other symptoms of hypothermia occur," he said.

One emergency worker who was at the scene on Sunday told Birr that while there may have been up to 100 people in and around the river, he did not notice one life jacket in the area.

Many people consider riding inner tubes over white water a "casual recreation;" however, professionals who go white-water rafting wear both life jackets and helmets, Birr said.

Birr often has had people tell him how they have been caught in the current and pulled under the water, and this is what may have happened on Sunday, he said.

"A person cannot believe the amount of force and the amount of pressure that the current can create. The force is not to be underestimated," he said.

In addition, once someone is in the river there is also the possibility that a person may hit his or her head on a rock, Birr added.

While preliminary indications show that alcohol consumption may not have contributed to Nash's death, alcohol has been a factor in several river accidents in the past, Birr said. A person who enters the water after drinking alcohol not only has slower reactions but is more susceptible to hypothermia, he said.

Anyone attempting to swim or ride an inner tube on the river

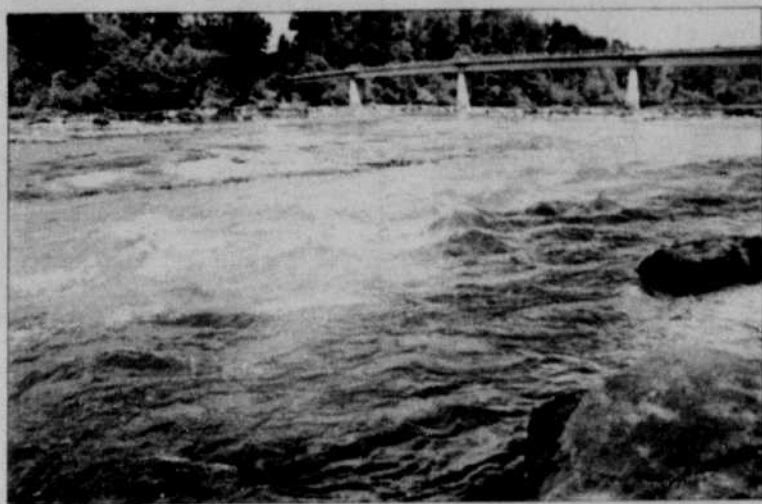


Photo by Shu-Shing Chen

A swift current and cold water make swimming and rafting dangerous sports on the Willamette River west of the Autzen Footbridge, where University student Jesse Nash drowned on Sunday.

should wear a life jacket, said Kent Wickham, owner of Ouzel River Trips & Raft Rentals, 5140 Franklin Blvd.

"Whenever you go through any type of rapids there is a swirling motion which will pull people under for awhile, and some people will panic," he said.

If the person does not panic he or she will come to the surface, Wickham said. However, it is when the person panics that the danger is most prevalent, he said.

Wickham agrees that the area where Nash drowned is a hazardous area, not only because it is an accessible area, but because of the debris thrown into the river.

"That area tends to be a place where a lot of stuff gets thrown

into the river, such as bikes or grocery carts," Wickham said.

Several drownings in the past occurred because of this litter, he said.

"People have been caught on the stuff, and the force of the current pins them down."

While there have been periodic attempts to clean up that area of the river, accidents have occurred due to debris. Two years ago a man drowned after his pants' leg became caught on a bicycle that was submerged in the water. Because of a strong current, it took the rescue team two days to recover the body from the river, Birr said.

The coroner's report on Nash's death will be issued this afternoon, according to a spokesman for the coroner's office.

tunity to strengthen our teaching education programs."

More than 100 people spoke at the public hearings last month after the State Board gave tentative approval to the first draft of the plan.

Larry Pierce, State Board vice chancellor for academic affairs, said the strengthened standards are intended to keep up with in-

creasing expectations of public school teachers. "We need people who are well educated going into our public school classrooms," he said.

Besides the elimination of the undergraduate education degree, the original changes proposed by the State Board included:

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MEETINGS

Campus Crusade for Christ will hold its meeting at 8:30 p.m. in Room 146 Straub. Brett Gilchrist will speak on Romans 8.

Men Against Rape meets tonight at 7 in EMU Century Room D.

AA meeting today from 1:30-2:30 at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St., across from PLC.

College Republicans will meet at 5 tonight in EMU Century Room C. Election for historian will be held.

Druids meet tonight at 6 in the EMU Fountain Court.

MISCELLANEOUS

Andre Eugen Augermann will give a free presentation on "The Art of Spiritual Healing" today from 1:30-3:30 at the Eugene Public Library in the board room. The presentation is aimed at teaching people to rediscover and to learn how to use the power of their mind to heal themselves and others.

United Methodist Campus Ministry will have a brown bag supper and conversation at 5:30 followed by Bible study at 6:30. Everyone is welcome, 1236 Kincaid St.

Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament will present a panel discussion titled "Gorbachev and Glasnost: Changes in the USSR" today upstairs at the Eugene Public Library. The presentation,

which is free and open to the public, is an attempt to help Americans understand the implications of glasnost.

"Too Much to Ask: The Cost of Black Female Success" — Elizabeth Higginbotham of the Department of Sociology and Social Work at Memphis State

University will speak at 7:30 tonight in the EMU Fir Room. Sponsored by the University Center for the Study of Women in Society and the women's studies program.

"Richardson and Ruskin" — A lecture by Tom Hubka tonight at 7 in Room 107 Lawrence.

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