

Northern Cross Society strives for survival

By Peter Mason

Of the Emerald

Ask 100 people on the street who survivalists are, and 90 of them will say, "...They're those crazies who live up in the hills in bomb shelters waiting for World War III with a huge stockpile of canned goods, semi-automatic weapons, children who don't go to school and evil gleams in their eyes."

It might be an exaggeration, but the connotations of "survivalists" are extreme. There is, however, one survival-related group that doesn't fit the image of pessimists waiting for a nuclear strike to send the world to hell in a Volvo.

The Northern Cross Society is

provide a clearinghouse where ideas and survival information can change hands freely.

Baranski formed the group in 1983 after flight training where he noticed that pilots downplayed the idea of survival. There seemed to be a lack of communication on the subject, so he thought a group where survival preparation was the foremost topic would be a big help.

The "society" has evolved from a small, select group whose main objective was exchanging information to a broader-based organization with a larger objective. Membership growth and the compilation of the Northern

environment in the fall of 1984. Rich Dailey and Steven McCoy were caught in a snowstorm while hunting near Cuddey Mountain, Idaho. They weren't able to return to their camp despite the fact they were each on a horse.

Things looked bleak as the temperature fell, and they weren't able to light a fire. They began to notice the first and second stages of hypothermia and knew their survival depended on staying warm. So they shot their horses, split open the carcasses, crawled inside and survived on the animals' body warmth.

They received the NCS's "Survivor Award" for exemplifying courage and resourcefulness in order to escape death and survive under adverse environmental conditions.

The society consists of women and men who are pilots, backpackers, climbers, adventurers and others who are just interested. Baranski notices about one-third of the members are "university age" (18-25), and he assumes it is because of their active lifestyles.

Active lifestyles, however, can cause problems if people

aren't prepared. Jim Blanchard, the coordinator of the Outdoor Pursuits Program at the University said, "Preparation is absolutely essential. Any problem that occurs can be attributed to poor preparation...nothing is more important."

door leadership course, said the best way to be prepared is to have firsthand experience.

"Go out in a controlled situation with people who know what they're doing and see how they handle it. So later you can know and have a point of

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an international organization of men and women dedicated to preparation for a variety of potential survival experiences.

The NCS divides potential survival experiences into the following five areas: an unexpected hostile environment, like being lost in the wilderness; survival in a societal collapse brought on by economic or technological factors; survival associated with explorers and professional adventurers; survival in a natural disaster; and survival after a nuclear war.

Less than 5 percent of the members rated this last area as their number-one concern. NCS founder Dennis Baranski also de-emphasizes this aspect in the organization and believes the best way to prepare for that situation is at home on an individual basis.

One objective of NCS is to

Cross Register, a computer base of member profiles, are now the two main objectives. So now, for instance, if the private sector needs someone to skydive into the Swiss Alps, study the geology there and hike out, they may turn to NCS which can refer them to several possible members with the necessary credentials.

The credentials for membership aren't rigorous. If an applicant shows genuine interest and fully understands what the group is about, the chances are good for being accepted, Baranski said. He stressed that those most often turned away are the "radical fringe" who want to "revolutionize survivalism," live in the woods and wait for the flash.

An example of those who are indicative of NCS members are two men who showed real guts when they faced a hostile en-

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— Dennis Baranski

Baranski agreed, saying that carrying the proper equipment like a compass, maps and matches is very important.

The NCS also tests equipment, and Baranski believes this is a critical aspect of their job.

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Mental aspects are also important for survival.

Tim Semlick, a University student who recently completed Blanchard's principles of out-

reference to work from," he said.

The general public soon will have a chance to benefit from the NCS's knowledge. "The Northern Cross Bible of Survival" will soon be on the market, and Baranski predicts it will be the most complete handbook on all the various aspects of survival.

Membership information can be obtained by sending to the NCS/Northern Cross Ranch, P.O. Box 4527, Topeka, Kan., 66604. The society encourages local groups, but there are no formal regional or local structures.

Et al.

MEETINGS

The 1987-88 Oregon Daily Emerald staff will meet today at 5 at the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU, to finalize job descriptions and summer staff positions.

MISCELLANEOUS

"A Test of Love," a film in the Mental Health and the Cinema Series, will be shown tonight at 7 in the Sacred Heart General Hospital auditorium.

ATTENTION: ALL GROUPS SHOWING MOVIES DURING 1987-88

All student organizations showing more than two films and charging admission must attend a required film programming meeting. Procedures and requirements for showing films on campus will be discussed. The 1987-88 movie calendar will be passed around for groups to sign up for rooms and dates to show films. The meeting will be Friday, June 5, at 3:30 in Room 337 EMU.

"Faith and Reality," a video surveying the life and projects of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, will be presented by C.A.R.P. Thursday, June 4, at 12:30 in EMU Century Room D.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. Et als are run only once. Events with a donation or admission charge will not be considered. Events occurring nearest the publication date and campus events will be given priority.

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