

Weekend zoo offers hands-on experience with animals

By Betsy Clayton
Emerald Associate Editor

Bob Beisser wishes he had 20 lifetimes to live, because there is so much to learn about in nature.

But he wonders how much of nature will be left to study. "The laws of nature are going to prevail. If we keep breaking rules and damaging life systems, we'll pay the price," he said.

Beisser, a 37-year-old self-employed window washer, is taking his own steps against losing nature. He is the coordinator and creator of the Fifth Annual New Zoo, a temporary animal exhibit scheduled for this weekend in Eugene and Springfield.

"I'm trying to bring people and animals together," Beisser said. The goal of the two-day

event is to explain the issue of wildlife conservation and to increase the community's knowledge of different types of animals.

His zoo is unique, he said, because there are no cages or bars. "People can get hands-on experiences with animals... a giant tortoise that isn't confined at all will be there free to roam around," he said.

This year's zoo plans to display a golden eagle and other birds of prey, various snakes and reptiles, a wolf, a lion, raccoons, a crocodile and a cougar.

In addition, Stuart Perlmeter, a Springfield middle school teacher who did his doctorate work in Central Africa, will present slides on mountain gorillas. These gorillas are a highly endangered species with only 270 remaining in the world, Beisser said.

Individuals from around the Northwest will be bringing

animals to the zoo. Wildlife Safari, Wildlife Images and other animal organizations will also show animals. "All these people have the same concerns that I have," Beisser said. "They are coming because it is important."

The New Zoo will be at Amazon Community Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Springfield's Island Park will be the site of Sunday's event from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children.

In the past, the Eugene Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services and the Willamalane Park and Recreation District helped support the New Zoo. This year Beisser said the zoo organizers are without sponsors and will pay facility fees and insurance costs.

The New Zoo began in November 1984 as a reptile show, with Beisser showing

many of his own snakes and reptiles. The following spring the event gained diversity with eagles, owls, bats and a skunk. In 1986, the New Zoo idea had snowballed, bringing people from out of the area as far as Seattle.

Last year was the first time the display was in Springfield. It brought an additional 1,500 people to the event, which contributed to the 4,000 attendance total. On Oct. 1, 1987, the New Zoo made its debut in Florence. It was so successful that it will also become an annual event, Beisser said. Currently, Beisser is working to have a summer New Zoo event at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum, just outside of Eugene.

Beisser said although the New Zoo looks like a two-day event, it is really an ongoing program. He does research all the time, he said, and he looks for ways to expand the New

Zoo. Beisser often gives school presentations to inform children about wildlife and nature. "I'm trying to do more. I've tried to create a petting zoo for the school kids in the area as well as for New Zoo events," he said.

An extensive interest in nature and its preservation has been a central theme in Beisser's life since he was a child, he said. "We have the knowledge from the scientists to make changes but we just don't. It's a change in people's attitudes and values that will make the difference."

Though progress is slow in stopping nature's destruction, Beisser said he finds himself motivated to take steps toward change.

"For some reason it's my job to address the problem. As long as animals are still here, I'll keep my efforts."

Cyclists ride for MADD

Eight bicyclists from Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity began a long, long trip on Thursday to the Bay Area for Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

The 650-mile road trip is part of the Third Annual Fiji Bike Race, a fund-raising competition between nine Fiji chapters across Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho and Montana.

The race culminates Saturday at a Fiji house in San Jose, Calif.

The University chapter of Phi Gamma Delta expects to raise \$7,500 for MADD, an organization working against

alcohol-related traffic fatalities.

"The neat thing about this is that it creates an awareness about drinking and driving when we go canvassing door to door," Fiji member Rod Ramsour said.

The bicyclists left Thursday afternoon at 1:30 and will work 40-mile shifts. They will return home Sunday, via car.

Of the eight Oregon bicyclists, two are on their second trip. Jim Randall and Karl Rasmussen participated in last year's bike race and were in charge of setting up this year's.

Powwow to be held at Mac Court

Native American handicrafts and inter-tribal competitive dancing will be on display at the 20th annual Native American Student Union Pow-Wow, to be held today and Saturday at McArthur Court.

Three Powwow sessions will take place: tonight at 8 p.m. and Saturday at noon and 7 p.m. All are welcome and no admission will be charged.

NASU's Powwow kicks off American Indian Week, proclaimed by Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt in appreciation of "the influence of American Indian culture, values, traditions and language." It also marks the beginning of the yearly powwow season, which usually runs through mid-autumn.

NASU Assistant Director Harry Hintsala said.

Each session will begin with a Grand Entry. State and U.S. flags will be displayed, the Native American standard will be presented, and a short prayer ceremony will be held.

Most of the powwow, however, is dedicated to the dancing competitions. Two main categories of dance will be presented at the contests, traditional and "fancy," NASU Director Laurain Johnson said.

"The typical Indians you see on TV show fancy dancing," Johnson said. "Traditional dances are slower — more traditional, more graceful type dancing."

There will be divisions for

men, women and younger dancers.

In addition to dancing teams from the Siletz, Umatilla, Payute and Klamath tribes from the Northwest, other tribes from around the country, such as the Ojibwa and Sioux from the Midwest, will also be competing.

The three powwow sessions will also serve as elimination rounds in the dance competition, with the last session on Saturday to be the finals. Winning dancers will be awarded traditional Pendleton Indian blankets.

Handmade Native American arts and crafts will be sold both days in the Mac Court lobby. Johnson estimated that 50 booths will be set up.

Larry Large, vice president of university relations, called the event a "great opportunity" for anyone with an interest in Native American culture.

NASU is providing housing from the community for all of the visiting tribal dancers.

UO-Bookstore

STORIES THAT OVERFLOW WITH DANGER, EXCITEMENT, MYSTERY, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF LIFE.

Where I'm Calling From RAYMOND CARVER

In his first book of fiction in over four years, Raymond Carver has included all of his new work as well as his best stories from four earlier collections. The promise of *Where I'm Calling From*, therefore, is the entire range of his development, going back some twenty-five years and building through the books that have established Carver's reputation as "one of the true contemporary masters" (*The New York Review of Books*) whose stories "can already be counted among the masterpieces of American fiction: (front page, *The New York Times Book Review*).

With his new stories, Carver has extended his achievement. In "Intimacy," an ex-wife details her first husband's betrayals in headlong, impassioned voice. In "Boxes," a son watches, helpless, as his mother slips away toward madness, moving herself and her possessions — a life reduced to cardboard cartons — from one temporary home to another. In none of these stories does Carver swerve from his singular vision: "Written in the simplest of styles, mirroring the language of everyday, his stories possess an awesome mesmerizing power. Out of the moments when good luck runs out, Carver makes the highest art" (*Newsday*).

Raymond Carver was born in Oregon in 1939, and lives in Port Angeles, Washington. His ten books have been translated into more than twenty languages.

NOW AVAILABLE IN
GENERAL BOOKS



\$19.95
Hardcover

UO BOOKSTORE
13th & Kincaid
M-F 7:30-5:30
SAT 10:00-5:00
686-4331

Open
24
Hours
kinko's

Great copies Great people
860 E. 13th 344-7894

Used Color
Televisions

\$49⁰⁰ and up

Free Estimate
on TV Repair

Deka
Electronics

390 W. 12th
342-2488