

Program hosts preview tonight

By Jolie Andrade
Emerald Reporter

For 25 years, the University's Outdoor Program has given people the opportunity to explore Oregon and other states by initiating free excursions and providing helpful information about a variety of outdoor activities.

The program will present a preview for outdoor enthusiasts Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU basement.

"This is an open invitation for people to come to the Outdoor Program to learn more about trips and services," said Keith Nelson, Outdoor Program associate director.

People will have the opportunity to meet people with similar interests and talk to program workers about ideas or suggestions, he said.

The purpose of the Outdoor Program is to oversee activities sponsored by the program or other individuals by supplying them with adequate information and equipment.

The program also has numerous magazines and brochures on river rafting, skiing, and other outdoor activities. It provides biking and hiking maps for Oregon and the entire Northwest.

Every week there are videos shown in the program's office which is located in the ground floor of the EMU, through the arcade in Room 23. Videos include various events, such as the "Tour de France" and "The Conquest of Everest."

In addition, the Outdoor Program is planning winter ski trips during Thanksgiving vacation and a trip to Baja, Mexico during Christmas vacation, Nelson said.

The Outdoor Program's equipment swap is sponsored by the program and is held every year. "It's the most popular on-campus activity," Nelson said. "Hundreds and hundreds of people come in to sell and buy equipment."

"The program is to help motivate people or inspire people to do these trips," said Rita Monasterio, a student working for the Outdoor Program. "We show them how and give them ideas."

Monasterio said that because some students do not have a car, they believe they cannot do anything or go anywhere. These people, however, can benefit from the program's free transportation system, including loaned cars and vans. All that is required is a valid driver's license and an acceptable driving record. Monasterio added that there is a small mileage fee for the service.

The Outdoor Program is open to all students, as well as members of the community at large and she encouraged women to participate in the program's activities.

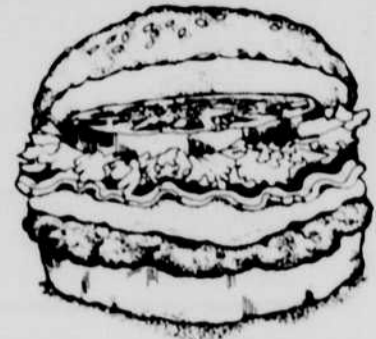
"The program is for everybody," she said. "A lot of females feel they can't do this, and they enjoy the outdoor endeavors just as much as men."

The majority of people that participate in the activities are University students; about 50 percent are women.

"I loved backpacking and other stuff at home and I just came to see what they (the Outdoor Program) could offer," said Mike Le Fore, a transfer from Portland State. "I think it's great."

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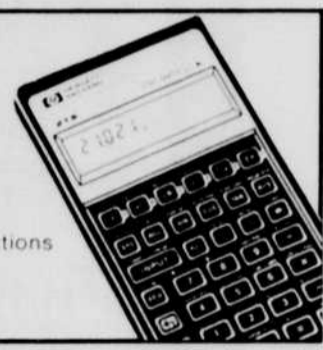
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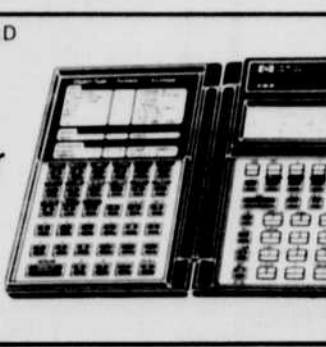
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