



Courtesy photo  
International aeronauts Larry Newman of the United States (left), Vladimir Dzhanibekov of the Soviet Union and Richard Branson of the United Kingdom, spoke with students from Sheldon High School in Eugene about their upcoming around-the-world balloon flight.

## Students at Sheldon High talk to aeronauts on ESPN

By Doug Hightower  
Emerald Contributor

Twenty-four Sheldon High School students participated in a nationally televised ESPN special documentary of an around-the-world-manned-balloon flight.

Sheldon was chosen as one of four schools in the nation to take part in the broadcast of "Earthwinds: A Live Interactive Classroom." The program is part of ESPN's continuing coverage of the flight of "Earthwinds," an attempt to become the first multinational aeronautical crew, including members from the USA, Britain and the Soviet Union, to circumnavigate the earth non-stop in a balloon.

The program provided Sheldon students with the opportunity to ask questions of the Earthwinds crew assembled at ESPN's Bristol, Conn., studio.

Sheldon's Justin Mortenson asked the Earthwinds crew how the flight path was controlled. Larry Newman of the United States, the project leader and pilot, explained that the path of the balloon is totally controlled by the wind.

"The wind provides the motor," Newman said. "It's our engine."

Richard Branson, co-pilot from Britain said, "There is no way to steer a balloon, so the only way to change directions is to drop the balloon's altitude some 10,000 feet and let the wind carry you from there."

The unique design of the Earthwinds ship consists of an upper helium and a lower, upside-down, air-filled balloon. A pressurized gondola/capsule, 24-ft-long by 10-ft in diameter, is suspended in between.

Chelle Crowder, a junior, asked if the initial launch was dangerous with such a unique air craft. Branson said the launch of any balloon is always the biggest risk.

"When a balloon takes off, it has a life of its own and almost wants to go anywhere," he said.

If the Earthwinds crew of Newman, Branson and Vladimir Dzhanibekov of the Soviet Union is successful, their around-the-world-manned-balloon flight will cover 21,000 miles in 12 to 14 days. This will break the old record established in 1981 of 5,208 miles in six days.

The show was part of the cable industry's "Cable in the Classroom" series, programming designed to use cable television as an educational tool.

Sheldon High School Assistant Principal Susan Scherer said one of the reasons Sheldon was chosen was because the school already had the necessary broadcast facilities.

## Kids learn environment lessons

Outdoor School uses activities, M & M's to teach

By Hope Neelson  
Emerald Reporter

Counselors Otter, Stick, Nirvana and Apples met with their Outdoor School group in the EMU Wednesday night to talk about what they taught their kids and what their kids taught them at camp.

Outdoor School, a program offered through ESCAPE, allows college students to be camp counselors for 4th, 5th, or 6th graders for five days. The counselors earn three credits in the process.

Faculty adviser Nadia Telsey said the counselors meet after the camping week to discuss their experiences and suggest ways of improving the process.

"We believe that in order to get more out of the experience, there is a reflection process," she said. "If you think about the experiences, you learn from that a whole lot more than if you do the action and move on right away."

And the counselors said they learned a lot. Before they taught the kids, they had to learn the material themselves.

Depending on the camp and age group, different of environmental information was taught. Fifth graders tend to get marine biology and sciences, whereas 6th graders get forests and the water cycle, Telsey said.

The counselors are split up in groups of six or seven and

are taught by an "earthologist," a certain letter from ECDCICA. Each letter stands for a different part of nature. For example, the "c's" stood for "cycles," "community," and "change," and "a" stood for adaptation.

The counselors were then each assigned a different trail, and taught about their word

**'You had these 12 little sixth graders and they're all yours for three days. You had to be their mom and dad.'**

— Christy Evanson,  
Outdoor School counselor

on different parts of the trail. The kids traveled different trails each day and learned each letter, and thus the different aspects of nature.

The kids could also choose from different activities including workshops on friendship bracelets, archery and drawing. But the counselors, with nicknames, like Otter, Ducky and Apples, said they considered these lighter activities to be their free time.

University student Christy Evanson said she was nervous

about being a counselor at first.

"You had these 12 little sixth graders and they're all yours for three days," she said. "You had to be their mom and dad. If they were sick you had to take them to the nurse."

"They asked for hugs, and wanted you to stay up and talk to them at night."

Evanson said the kids were surprisingly already very knowledgeable and compassionate about the environment.

"They were really aware of the environment and what they needed to do to improve it," Evanson said.

In one activity a plate was put on the ground of the forest with a big bag of M & M's on it. The class was split into five generations. The teacher then told the kids the candy represented resources, and each generation should take as many as they felt they needed.

"The first generation went out and took the resources they felt they needed," Evanson said. "They were really careful. They took, like, three each," she said.

"Then the second generation came out and hoarded. They started taking handfuls."

Eventually the fifth generation was left with none, she said.

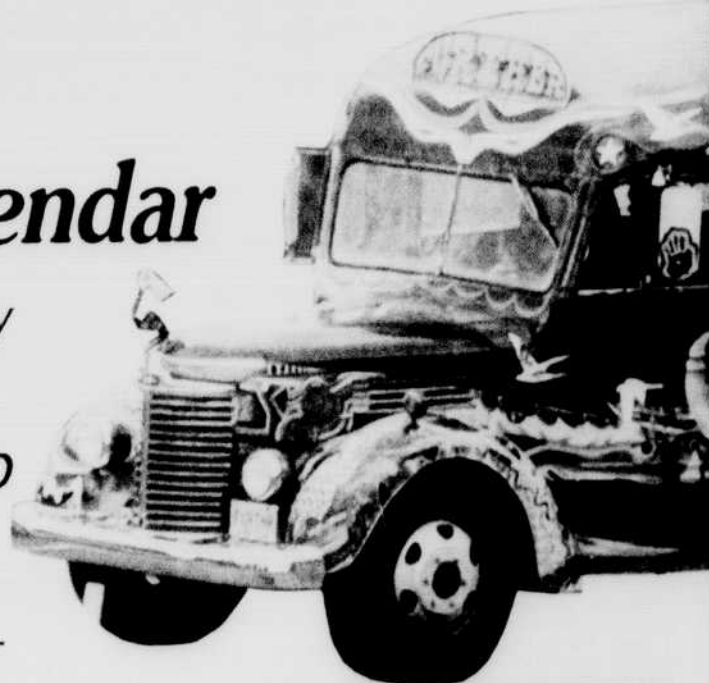
"It was a really effective ex-

Turn to OUTDOORS, Page 8

# Further On...the Calendar

By Ken Babbs and Ken Kesey

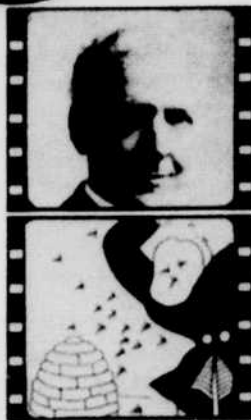
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