



Photo by John Stoops

Eugene Ballet performers practice for the Nutcracker, which will run from Dec. 19-22 at the Hult Center.

## Eugene offers a lot to do when there's no school

As the goose gets fatter and the malls laboriously arrange their Christmas decorations (a task they began in early August), we brace ourselves for another holiday season, filled with an abundance of wrapping paper, egg nog and ho-ho-ho.

After the disease called finals has come and gone, and we are faced with three weeks of freedom, some of us may have some empty time on our hands. But Eugene loves a holiday as much as any other city, and luckily, there is plenty to do this Christmas in our happy town.

For many of us, it hasn't been easy to avoid the temptation of cutting classes once there was decent skiing to be had. We have had several fortuitous storms in the past few weeks, and more than one webfoot has been seen on the slopes. Christmas vacation is the perfect time to head for the hills.

The best place near Eugene to go skiing is Mt. Bachelor, according to Dale Berg of Berg's Ski Shop, 367 W. 13th Ave. Nine ski lifts are available and the mountain is only about three hours away.

For cross-country fans, there is plenty to do as well. Mt. Bachelor has some terrific cross-country skiing, letting dual skiers get the best of both worlds. However, Berg said that the best bet is to try skiing on the back roads. He suggested that back roads are packed and trimmed early in the season and are especially good for people who are new to the sport.

Willamette Pass and Hoodoo aren't back-road mountains, but there are plenty of out-of-the-way, relatively isolated places to be explored. However, at these locations, snow park permits are required. Don't despair though — you don't have to forfeit your college education to acquire one. You can attain one at local ski shops or at everybody's favorite place, the Department of

Motor Vehicles.

If you are looking to get away for a few days and get in some of this cross-country skiing, a great (and close) place to check out is Odell Lake Lodge, Hwy. 58 East. There are five miles of cross-country skiing and equipment rentals available, and a one-day pass sells for \$8.50.

If you're not the ski-bum type, Odell offers more than just its skiing. You can always hang out inside one of the cabins (with a fireplace for you romantic types), or go spend your time in the resort's restaurant.

For people who are looking for a little culture during vacation, the Hult Center has some great opportunities. On Dec. 7, the symphony is holding a performance at 8 p.m., and tickets run from \$7 to \$20, depending on the location of your seat. On Dec. 14, the Cascade Chorus will be singing selected Christmas barbershop music, which is bound to get anyone in the mood for mistletoe.

And not to be forgotten, the Nutcracker will run from Dec. 19-22. If you haven't seen this classic Christmas ballet before, it is a definite must this year. If you want to see the live-music performance, the tickets range from \$7 to \$22. If you don't mind taped music, performances run from \$6 to \$19.50.

There's even something for those of us who find ourselves a bit short of currency during the holidays: There are two free noon performances of live holiday music on Dec. 5 and 12.

After Christmas is over, the Hult doesn't slow down. On Dec. 31, the opera is performing *Candide* and tickets run from \$12 to \$50. For more information, call the Hult ticket office at 687-500.

There are always the movies to fall back on if you are feeling restless and bored. Can't get into the spirit? You can always have someone get into the spirit

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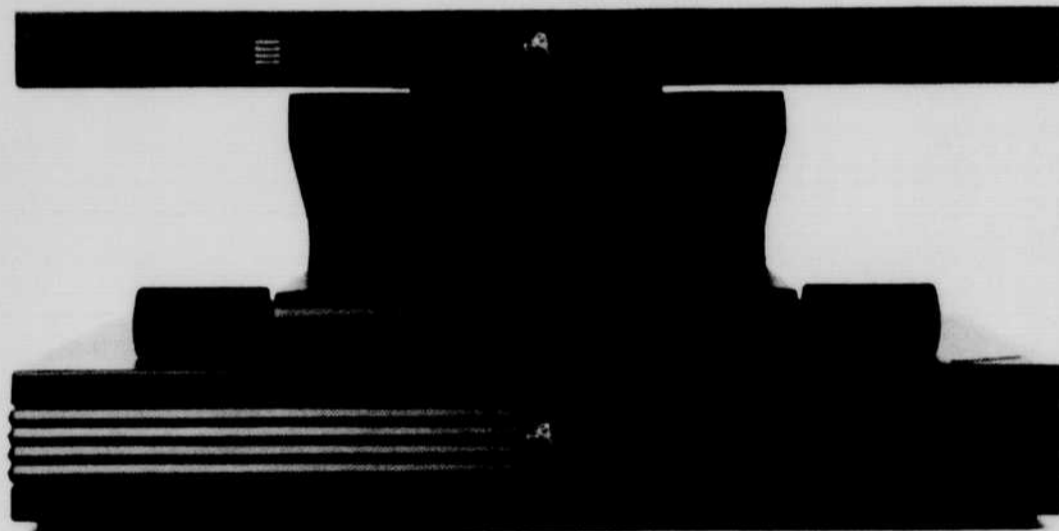
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