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SKYDIVE

Continued from Page 5

waved my last goodbyes before leaving the ground. I was seated by the plane's door, and I looked down as the craft departed from earth.

My doubts about jumping went on vacation during the trip up. I thought more about whether my legs would freeze up on the fall, if I was stupid for wearing shorts.

McGee diverted my thoughts for a few seconds, pointing out places of interest within our view. Mt. Jefferson, the Three Sisters, Eugene behind a wall of clouds.

Then I started worrying about my socks, and whether they looked stupid pulled up. My socks? Heck, before I knew it, McGee was hooking himself up to my straps at 9,000 feet and asking if they were comfortable. Well, they were a lot more comfortable than I was.

We reached 10,000 feet

McGee propped the door open, and I felt the cold rush of air come in. As instructed, I put my left foot on the wheel, my right foot on the step, my arms across chest. McGee was right behind

Things sure looked a lot different from 10,000 feet. Everything is square, and you can't tell where anything is. There's also nothing between you and the ground. Nothing.

McGee began to rock back and forth, counting, "One, two, three." He pushed. We fell. Fast.

McGee turned a 180-degree barrel roll, and I could see the plane disappearing as I fell. For a few seconds, I forgot everything I was instructed to do.

Then I began to check my altimeter and ripcord as procedure, watching the needle on my altimeter fall. McGee gave me the "thumbs up" signal to spread my arms. I looked down at the ground rushing up to swallow me, and the wind rushed into my mouth, blowing out my cheeks like a goldfish.

I couldn't scream if I wanted to.

When we reached 5,000 feet, McGee gave me the second signal, the one to pull the ripcord. My right thumb hooked the device and pulled like



University senior Pat Malach makes a safe landing at the end of his mile-and-a-half jump Saturday at the Willamette Valley Parachuting Club.

my life depended on it. It did.

The chute opened smoothly, and the noise of rushing air was replaced by a creepy silence. We hung by our chute as if standing on some invisible platform, watching the world below. I felt a little disoriented, going suddenly from a 120-mile-an-hour fall to a soft descent. My ears ached because of the quick 5,000-foot drop that lasted a mere 30 seconds.

McGee guided my hands to the steering handles, where I released the brakes. We began to fall faster, my steering guiding us closer to the ground. We circled the drop zone (the landing area) at the Knox Butte Flying Club once, and I steered our way around, heading into the wind.

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TV Theme Music

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Asian/Pacific American Student Union commemorates

The 50th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066: The Internment of Japanese-Americans

"Manzanar"

A Nisei recollects his childhood experiences in the Manzanar concentration camp. This 16-minute film has an artistic and poetic fiair capturing the emotions of memories as the filmmaker revisits the camp.

"Conversations: Before the War/After the War"

Three fictionalized characters discuss facts, experiences and feelings as they explore the deepseated and personal effects wrought by the WWII incarceration.

A poetry reading will follow these two short films.

Wednesday, February 19, 1992 at Willamette Hall 112, 7 p.m. (note room change)

For more info, contact: The Asian/Pacific American Student Union • Suite 12 EMU • University of Oregon • Eugene, OR 97403 • (503) 346-4342

Presented by Dr. James Jackson (U. of O. Student

Presented by Dr. James Jackson (U of O Student Health Center), Jim Shoemaker (Whitebird Clinic), and Britt Ellis (Lifestyle Planning Program)

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