

OUTDOORS

Continued from Page 1

University in 1979 to start a college program in beginning and advanced wilderness outings and skills.

Within 10 years, the program had grown into the largest of its kind in the country and a model for other universities. For less than \$50 a term, students could learn the basics of rockclimbing or the subtleties of windsurfing.

"Compared to Eugene Parks and Recreation and other competitors, the cost of our classes are way under market," Blanchard said.

Today, students have many of those same opportunities, but they come at an increased cost and decreased availability.

Wilderness Survival, the prerequisite class for most outdoor classes, costs \$34 this term, compared to \$30 a year ago. Blanchard said he expects class costs to rise another \$5 to \$9 next year, and all water classes were canceled this year due to lack of money for instructors.

As the program receives no

money from the state, students must pay the entire cost of the classes, Blanchard said. That includes Blanchard's salary.

And as part of a deal with the administration, Blanchard agreed to work full time for half-pay this year, in order to keep the program alive. The program's other instructor, Michael Strong, had the same option but left this year to teach several courses at the private National Outdoor Leadership School.

"I'm living on savings this year," Blanchard said. "I've invested too much in this program to just drop it. I've lived here all my life, and this is where I've chosen to settle."

Despite the program's diminished size and increased cost, students continue to fill the classes and waiting lists are often as long as the class roster, Blanchard said.

Junior geography student Travis Reeder said the program provides hands-on learning for his field.

"It gives me the skills I need to get into the places I like to study, such as national forests,"

Reeder said. "Being in the classroom so much, I lose track of what I'm studying — it just becomes work on paper."

Senior psychology student Seth Koch said he appreciates the solitude he finds in the wilderness.

"I get to know myself better when there's not so many extraneous variables around me. Personally, I'm more aware of who I am as an individual," he said.

Blanchard said he is cautiously optimistic about the program's future.

"In the long run the future is bright, because the demand is growing," he said.

And he is quick to point out that, while the state has abandoned the program, the University has not.

"The administration has been extremely supportive of our efforts to keep going," he said. "They give us facilities to work in and pay for our heating and electric bills."

"Even in our reduced state, we are still the largest outdoor-based program in the country," he said.

"30 years of Quality Service"

Mercedes • BMW • Volkswagen

Audi • Datsun • Toyota

10% discount w/valid UO I.D. card
good thru 12/31/92



**GERMAN
AUTO
SERVICE,
INC.**

342-2912

2025 Franklin Blvd.

Eugene, Oregon, 97402

Saturday Market
presents
Holiday Market

Thousands of Handcrafted Gifts
International Food Court
Lane County Farmer's Market

Open every Saturday & Sunday
between Thanksgiving and Christmas
Plus the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Christmas Eve

Lane County Fairgrounds
10am to 6pm

Free admission
Free entertainment
Free parking

DIRECTOR

Continued from Page 1

trekked solo through Russia and kayaked some of the world's most dangerous rivers.

Blanchard's career is one marked by a close tie to the outdoors. After graduating with a general science degree from the University in 1967, he landed a job as a U.S. Forest Service wilderness ranger.

For the next 10 years he patrolled the Willamette National Forest, also working for the ski patrol at Mount Bachelor. His work eventually led him into the dangerous and technical field of mountain rescue.

In the 1970s, Blanchard and two others founded what is today the Pacific Crest Outward Bound School, which teaches outdoor skills with an awareness of the environment.

Nine years later, Blanchard brought his experience to the University and founded the Outdoor Pursuits program.

Blanchard says he has no regrets about choosing a career that he jokingly says "avoids meaningful employment."

"Most of my college friends are now doctors, lawyers and Indian chiefs," he said. "They made a lot of money. I had fun instead."

In all his years of mountaineering and adventuring, his most dangerous moment came about 10 years ago on a relatively idyllic solo hike through Yugoslavia.

"It was a rather odd case, involving dogs in Macedonia," Blanchard said. "They have these giant, 150-pound dogs to guard their sheep. They're very effective — they kill anything that comes near the sheep."

"I got tangled up with almost a dozen of the dogs," he said. "I killed several of them with stones, then they gathered around me. I managed to keep them at bay by picking up a dead dog — a

'I managed to keep them at bay by picking up a dead dog — a small one — by its hind legs and swinging it around as a club.'

— Jim Blanchard,
Outdoor Pursuits program director

small one — by its hind legs and swinging it around as a club.

"I don't know how long that lasted, but my clothes were in shreds, and I had lost a lot of blood. I was saved by some Albanian border guards, who machine-gunned the rest of them — saved my little hiney."

"I ended up being holed up in a small village for quite a while until my wounds started to heal."

In the summers, Blanchard leads American clients on treks through the European and Japanese Alps. He said these mountain trips give him the peace of mind to deal with the stresses he encounters in Eugene.

"You get a special perspective when you're on a mountain peak that's impossible to achieve in Eugene," he said.

"We live in a pretty esoteric realm that's distantly related to reality. When you're constantly dealing in math or psychology or physics, the connections are hard to make," he said.

Blanchard said his plans for the future are confined to the University.

"I'll be focused on rebuilding this program," he said. "I see myself running it for sometime. It's going to work. Somehow it's going to work."

FREE SEMINARS

Looking to buy
In-line Skates
for Christmas or
Next Spring?
Need more info.?



Campus Skate Co.
and **Berg's Ski Shop**
are sponsoring free educational
seminars on the do's and don'ts
of purchasing, maintaining,
and/or using in-line skates.

Dec. 4th-6th

at **Campus Skate**
720 E. 13th
Eugene 683-3516

poppi's
Anatolia

"The Land East"
Traditional
Greek & Indian Food



Winter Hours

Mon.-Thurs. 11:30-9:30

Fri. & Sat. 11:30-10:00

Sun. 5:00-10:00

992 Willamette
Eugene, Or 97401

343-9661

Let Us Wrap It!

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
BOOK STORE

Hours: Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5