No harm in stretching spring break stories



f all my friends, Dennis is the best storyteller. He knows just the right amount of embellishment needed to spice up a story to make it memorable. Yet he limits his exaggeration to keep the story believable.

That's why I wish I could be in his father's family room this week when Dennis tells his dad about our spring break, a week devoted to northwestern sporting activities.

With Dennis' father, you get instant feedback on the quality of story your're telling. If it's a really good one, he'll pour you a double martini. If he's getting bored, you're stuck with a Bud.

In order to get one of those famed double-martinis, I predict Dennis' stories will sound something like this:

The Fishing Story - Using only fly casting equipment, we hooked into a 27-inch trout on the Sandy River.

What Really Happened - We really did see fly casting equip-

ment, the Sandy River and a 27inch trout - just not all at the same time. After being skunked on the Sandy, we stopped by a trout farm just to make sure that some trout still did exist in Oregon. At the farm, we ran into the happiest 8-year-old boy in America who was struggling to carry the largest trout I had ever seen to a car.

While the struggle with the 27-incher had been the battle of a lifetime for the kid, the catch had been bittersweet for the boy's father. In addition to taking a big bite out of a worm, the fish had taken a bite out of the father's wallet, with the one fish totaling \$20 at the farm's regis-

As for the fly casting, well, if you haven't seen the movie "A River Runs Through It," it's a good one.

The Golfing Story - On the final hole of match play at one of British Columbia's finest courses, we made up two strokes on our opponents, giving us a well-fought win over two of the country club's best golfers.

What Really Happened — It is true that we had a close golf match, but I doubt the two ladies in their mid-50s were the club's best golfers. Their strategy of hitting the ball straight (but only 50 yards at a time) worked

well against our strategy of hitting the ball as hard and as errant as possible.

In fact, I told Dennis, as his ball flew high and deep into the woods surrounding the course. that I had never seen him hit the ball so well.

We also saw five Bald Eagles while golfing. They were following our foursome, scavenging the dead small animals our wayward shots had killed

The Cross Country Skiing Story - We made a rare springtime ascent of Mount Hood using only cross-country skis

What Really Happened - I thought the black diamond signs at Timberline meant "Trailhead," not "Most Difficult Run." The prominent thought in my mind as I went downhill wearing the cross-country skis was "I hope my health insurance hasn't expired.

The three minute descent of the downhill course was breathtaking; the hour long ascent back up the hill (we had no lift ticket) was also breathtaking

The "We Saw the Best Teams in the Northwest" Story - We saw two of the "hottest" teams in the northwest play - the Seattle Supersonics and the Vancouver Canucks. As an added bonus, the Sonics were playing the Trailblazers, and the Canucks were playing the Wayne Gretzky-led Los Angeles

What Really Happened - We were in the Kingdome while the basketball game was going on, but from our third balcony seats, among the 37,000 fans who had chosen to gather in the less than intimate setting, we couldn't really tell which team had the ball. Clyde Drexler might have returned from his hamstring injury, Sean Kemp might have scored 40 points. For all I know, Bill Walton might have played.

After driving three hours to the Vancouver Arena in order to see "The Great One," we were willing to pay anything to see the Canucks and Kings brawl on

Anything, that is, except the \$100 the scalpers at the arena wanted for a ticket. We tried some international arbitrage. telling the scalpers that 20 United States dollars were worth 100 Canadian dollars, but they didn't fall for it.

There was a large screen TV at the hotel bar, though.

Come to think of it. Dennis' dad might give him a martini even if he just tells him the truth this time.

Erick Studenicka is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

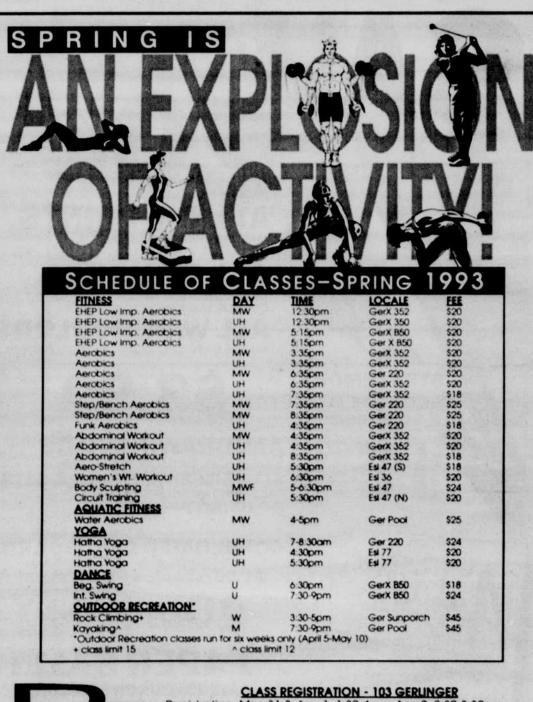
Men's golf struggles over break

The Oregon men's golf team traveled to California for spring break and finished in a disappointing 17th-place tie in the rain-shortened Pacific Coast Intercollegiate in Santa Barbara.

The Ducks shot a team total of 306 and were in 18th place after the first round Wednesday. The Ducks came back with a 298 in the afternoon round to finish tied with Weber State at 604. The final round, scheduled for Thursday, was canceled because of rain.

Senior Jeff Lyons and sophomore Ted Snavely each shot 74 in both rounds and tied for Oregon's low player. Cam Martin struggled with a 79 in the first round but came back with a 74 in the second round to tie for 65th place.

Junior Randy McCracken also came on strong in the second round, shooting a 76 after an 81 in the first round. Freshman Chris Bensel shot a 79 in the first round before slumping with an 85 in the second round.





Registration: Mar. 31 & Apr. 1, 1:30-4pm; Apr. 2, 2:30-3:30pm Late Registration: Apr. 5-9, 8am-4:30pm

CLASSES RUN FROM APRIL 5-MAY 24 For more information call x4113 or drop by 103 Gerlinger Hall.



