



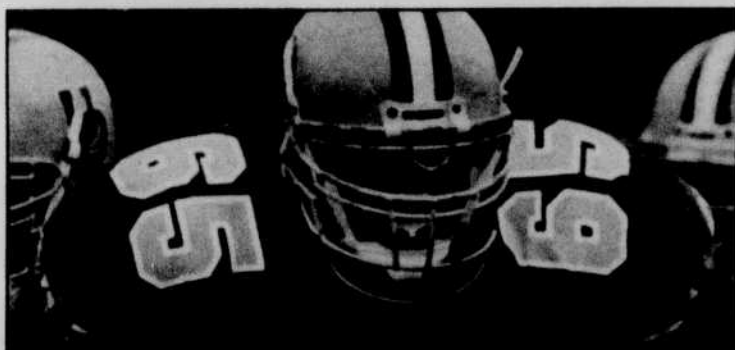
**THERE'S ONE THING EVERY COACH TURNS TO.
DAVE CHARBONNEAU.
TODAY IN SPORTS.**

**Women in Sports,
Art,
Literature,
Sciences,
History,
...and more**

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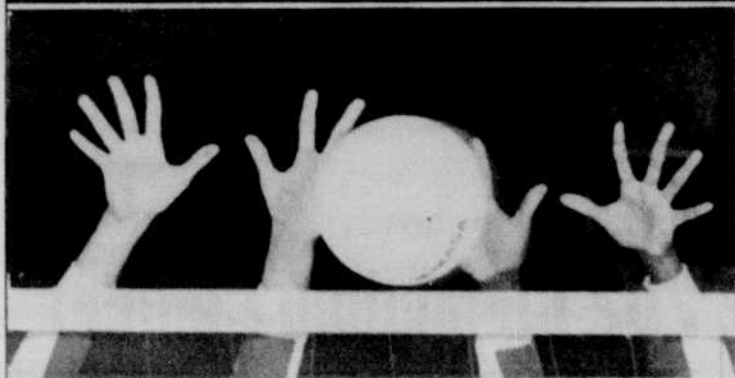
Women's History Month Shirts are Here!!!



**OREGON VS. WASHINGTON ST. SAT, OCT. 30
1:00 P.M. AUTZEN STADIUM HOMECOMING**
Admission \$2.00 with current UO I.D.

OREGON BLOCK PARTY

**UO VS. ARIZONA 7:00 P.M. MAC
UO VS. ARIZONA ST. 7:00 P.M. COURT**
Admission FREE with current UO I.D.



IN TOUCH with Women's Sports



NORMAN MESMAN for the Emerald

A group of women ride their bikes past Fox Hollow to Ridgeline with the WOMBATS.

WOMBATS teach women in town

□ WOMBATS are teaching women how to have fun while getting exercise on bikes

Groups such as YWCA, NOW and WOMBATS all have something in common — they are made up of women and each have coherent interests.

The YWCA works with women in the community, NOW is concerned with improving and equalizing the rights of women, and WOMBATS — Women's Mountain Bike and Tea Society — is devoted to getting more women on their mountain bikes.

The mission of WOMBATS at first may not appear to be helping women in any great way, until one takes a quick look at history and realizes that it was the bicycle that helped liberate women.

When horses were the main mode of transportation, women would either sit "lady-like" by side straddling their steed, or they would be pulled in a carriage. Once women started catching on to the idea that they could pedal across town without the hassle of a horse or carriage, they then realized that big dresses and corsets were in the way.

Soon they were wearing functional clothing and breathing easier. Once they were able to breathe, they were able to speak, and thus came voting privileges.

This may be a crude history lesson of why bikes are synonymous with women's emancipation; however, it explains the importance of WOMBATS.



NORMAN MESMAN for the Emerald

Jacquie Phelan, founder of the WOMBATS, talks to a group of women interested in learning more about bicycling.

WOMBATS is a community of women who help and teach mountain bike techniques to each other — and have tea parties.

The group was started by mountain bike guru Jacquie Phelan. If the name is unfamiliar, it is because she has been cheated of much deserved recognition. Phelan is the pioneer of women mountain bikers, winning every race she entered from 1981-1986. Not even Julie Furtado has come close to this.

Although she trained with men, she was usually excluded from their social circles. In 1984 she joined with RAAM winner Casey Patterson and Carolyn Donegan to host the first women-only mountain bike camp. In 1987, WOMBATS was born.

Phelan made her long-awaited Oregon visit to Eugene earlier this month and made some history. More than 65 women showed up, the largest group of women to ever come together on mountain bikes.

Phelan led them through the streets of Eugene up to the Ridgeline trail. There she gave pointers on maneuvering bikes through switchbacks and getting started on a steep hill. Although there were women stretching from one end of the trail to the other, Phelan led from the back and helped any one who was struggling.

After the ride, the bikers grouped at Amazon park and had tea and scones. Those who were part of this event realized that she need not be a hardcore rider to belong to WOMBATS. Phelan's objective was to show women how to have fun among themselves.

It was refreshing to see women who weren't competing against one another, but encouraging each other. Mountain biking isn't as rugged as it is made out to be in the media, and may be the women of WOMBATS who will help others realize this. After all, the point of the sport is to have fun.

— Tamara Jones