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The Environmental Issues Committee is seeking nominations for **UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR***

to be presented during Earth Week. Send written nominations
to Pat Dover at Office of Public Safety by April 1, 1994.

*6 awards

contact: 346-1529

Brochures inform about river safety

PORTLAND (AP) — The drowning death of a Russian boy in an Oregon river has led to the publication of a series of brochures that explain river safety to immigrant communities in their native languages.

The idea that children were walking into the water and being swept away simply because they didn't know how dangerous Northwest rivers could be nagged at Richard K. Jarvis, news director for Portland's KATU-TV.

"It seemed like basic knowledge could prevent that," he said.

So Jarvis approached the Oregon Water Safety Council for help in producing a brochure that plainly describes river safety in Russian. The brochure has begun to circulate among Russian immigrants through their churches, refugee groups and schools.

The same brochure is being printed in four other languages — Vietnamese, Spanish, Laotian and Khmer for Cambodians. It uses simple images and short, clear phrases to describe specific river dangers, such as underwater ledges and strong currents.

Two Russian boys — Sergei V. Cherchenko, 8, and Ilya P. Kryshkal, 10 — were wading in the Columbia Slough in the summer of 1992 when they stepped off a shelf and drowned in the strong current.

A month earlier, Daniel Victor Kashubian, 16, a Russian immigrant, swam in the Willamette River near the Interstate 205 bridge and drowned. The Willamette also claimed another Russian youth, Anatoly Chesnokov, 14, last August, as he was wading and stepped off a ledge into deep water.

"We don't want to see any more," said Don Francis, 34, an environmental advocate who helped Jarvis with the brochure project.

He said other immigrant populations are just as vulnerable to the problem as Russian refugees are.

About 95 percent of the 35,000 refugees in Oregon live in the Portland area, said Paul Kim Duong, co-chairman of the Refugee Forum. The state has become home for about 18,000 Vietnamese, 7,000 Russians, 5,000 Laotians and 4,000 Cambodians, he said.

The brochures will help inform these and the additional 200 refugees who move into the area each month that the rivers are not as safe as they seem, Duong said.

The brochures are printed by the Port of Portland. The Water Safety Council, a nonprofit consortium of organizations, has helped sponsor the project and sees it as a model for the region, Francis said.

Copies of the brochure are available for distribution through the American Red Cross.

UNIDIVERSITY

You are invited to attend a public forum to discuss the
ACMC's report to the University Assembly
(March 8 minutes) and the proposed legislation which
will be introduced at the April assembly meeting.

When?

Thursday, March 31 from 12-2pm

Where?

Walnut Room, EMU (Across from the Post Office)

Those needing accommodations for a disability should call 346-3013

Please bring ideas, comments, and criticisms.



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Wednesday Mar. 30th \$3
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