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COUNTDOWN

9
days until graduation



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Pamela Davis pitches fifth inning during Jacksonville Suns exhibition game



WEATHER

Sunny.
High near 80.

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Club sports skydiving offers training, low rates

■ **FREE FALL:** The team hopes to put on a good showing at the National Competitions this winter

By Kristin Bailey
Student Activities Reporter

David Shoemaker's skydiving web site says it all: "We're all a little lost when we're grounded. For once you have tasted flight, you will walk with your eyes turned skyward. For there you have been and there you long to return."

Shoemaker and approximately 90 other members of Club Sports Skydiving Team have turned their eyes to the sky since becoming an official club earlier this term.

"As far as someone looking for a sport and having a good time, we're a real good club," said Shoemaker, the club's co-ordinator.

"Anybody is welcome, whether it's a one-time thing or if they want to learn and compete," he said. "I'm really interested in a team — people to fundraise and make regular jumps. We want to focus our activities as a club."

Experienced jumpers to squish first-timers can benefit from the club, Shoemaker said. Not only does the club offer competitive rates, but training sessions are also available.

"From the very beginning, we train people how to pack their chutes," he said. "In order to move up from student status, people must also complete a number of requirements."

Requirements include the abil-



David Shoemaker, co-ordinator for Club Sports Skydiving Team, free falls back to Earth. The skydiving team, which plans to compete in National Competitions in December, offers low-cost training to anyone interested in learning to skydive — safely.

ity to pack parachutes and perform specific maneuvers in the air.

"Once we know they'll be safe, we'll take them off student status," he said. "Then the prices change dramatically."

The required training and one static-line jump, which is jump-

ing from 3,500 feet with a parachute that opens almost immediately, costs \$50. The cost per jump decreases as a skydiver becomes more experienced, Shoemaker said.

Beth Sherman, one of the club's top jumpers, said skydiving is something everyone should try.

"It's the most fun you can have with your clothes on," she said. "It's a feeling of freedom. It's like nothing else because you can have all the worries in the world and then you jump, and you just glow."

Sherman, who has made more than 100 jumps, said her prima-

ry goal of participating in the club is developing a competitive team.

"We want a good showing at the National Competitions in December," she said. "Being a part of that kind of team is being a part of a whole sub-culture. When you're with other jumpers, it's like having another family."

Hard work key for pageant winner

■ **CROWN:** Miss Oregon USA claims determination brought her the trophy

By Brian Womack
Community Reporter

It wasn't the first time Heather Williams had faced this situation.

She stood on a stage at the Miss Oregon USA pageant on May 25 with only one other person between her and the crown. Two times before — 1992 and 1995 — she had been in the same position but settled for the title of first-runner up.

But the third trip would pay off. This year she walked away with the title she had relentlessly sought: Miss Oregon USA.

"She can never get that close and not go all the way," said Kristin Williams, Heather Williams' stepmother. "She's a very determined, strong-minded person."

A strong work ethic was what kept her keep pushing for the top, Kristin Williams said.

Her father, Reginald Williams, said that determination was instilled in her as a young girl.

"I tried to show [my children] when they were five that hard work equals success," he said.



WILLIAMS

As a girl, that hard work meant much physical fitness, he said. She loved playing sports and that eventually led her to succeed in hurdles in which she went to the district level to represent her high school.

"I was a total tom boy," Heather Williams said. "I grew up with my father and brother as one of the boys."

She said that competitive spirit also drove her to compete in pageants.

As a junior in high school, she had competed for the title of Miss Oregon, but lost. After she started college and no longer had the time to pursue her track ambitions, she went for the title of Miss Oregon USA.

Now that she has finally attained that title, she said her goal, of course, is to win the Miss USA title, which no Oregon contestant has placed higher than the top 10. She also hopes to get more involved in motivational speaking to children and others.

"I want to encourage people to go out and try everything," she said.

She also plans to continue to exercise two to three hours a day in preparation for the national pageant next February. She is currently working at

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Senate signs letter regarding Promise Keepers at Autzen

■ **SENATE:** The letter asks that monies from renting the stadium be used to address issues like sexism

By Kristin Bailey
Student Activities Reporter

The Peace Keepers controversy made its way to the ASUO Student Senate on Wednesday night in the EMU Ben Linder Forum.

After much debate, the Senate agreed to sign a letter submitted by the Peace Keepers Action Team. The letter, which will be read by other student government bodies, expresses concern over the way the Christian men's group was allowed to contract Autzen Stadium for their August event.

"Our intent isn't to say the Peace Keepers shouldn't come," said Margaret Butler, co-director

of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Alliance. "Our intent is that in a contentious situation, people should be made aware. It's a case of the University not telling us they made this contract. We found out through KEZI news."

The letter also asks that the University channel profits made from the Peace Keepers' visit to an account that would be used by campus members to address issues like sexism and homophobia.

Some senators expressed concern over the hasty manner in which the letter was drafted. However, Butler said the action team closely considered the letter's content.

"We spent a lot of time talking about and compiling the text of that letter," she said. "We have a large group of people coming to

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