Events teach outdoor skills

■ WOMEN: Sponsors are encouraging participation by women in outdoor activities.

By Angle Suchy

The outdoors can be a harsh

But whether the outing is a backpacking trip or rock-climbing expedition, women are no longer limited in clothing or outdoor options, said Cassie Curtis, a McKenzie Outfitters employee and founder of the week-long celebration of women in the outdoors entitled "Women in the

"We want to raise awareness about what's available to women nowadays as far as activities and equipment," Curtis said.

Events this week include a women's outdoor information fair today in the EMU Gumwood Room at 7 p.m., a panel discussion on women and the outdoors in the EMU Ben Linder Room Thursday at 7:30 p.m., a slide show entitled "Woman on the

Summit" in 138 Gilbert Hall Saturday at 7 p.m., an indoor rock climbing event Saturday at the Crux Rock Gym at Third Avenue and Lawrence Street, a raffle and a possible silent auction. Proceeds from the celebration will go toward the Women's Adventure Scholarship Fund, which McKenzie Outfitters will award to local women and girls for use in taking outdoor courses through area organizations.

Local participation in the event includes co-sponsorship by the ASUO Women's Center as well as a slide show presentation by local high altitude climber Heidi Howkins.

McKenzie Outfitters helped supply Howkins with gear to climb an 8,000 meter peak in the Himalayas. After she agreed to give a slide show about her experience as a female mountaineer, the idea for "Women in the Wild" was born.

"Women are underrepresented in outdoor pursuits, and this is part of our ongoing effort to raise awareness about what's available

for women," Curtis said. "Putting support into the community is also important, so having different participants all seemed to tie together.'

Support largely came from manufacturers of outdoor equipment, who donated around \$3,000 in items such as backpacks and sleeping bags for the event. The equipment will be raffled at the climbing event on

Curtis said women's outdoor gear is evolving as manufacturers realize that "'unisex' sizing does not work comfortably for women scaled-down men's smalls don't cut it in the rugged outdoors anymore."

Curtis said that campus events co-sponsored by the Women's Center are "helping promote women's issues in general, including outdoor exhibitions."

"We [at McKenzie Outfitters] have a strong tie with the University, including employees and customers, and we thought we'd show support for the center as well as join forces," Curtis said.

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U2: Ticket sales could be delayed indefinitely

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"Since it will be April before they determine whether or not we're going to do the concert, I don't know when the tickets will go on sale. I don't even know how much they're are going to cost."

Ticketmaster, the company handling the ticket sales, plans to

make tickets available for its major performers, including U2, on March 1. With the construction at Autzen, however, it could be much later until tickets are made available for the band's Eugene

appearance. Seating capacity for the concert is expected to be at around 3035,000 people.

Walton said Autzen Stadium is the largest venue between Seattle and San Francisco, and she hopes that by opening Autzen to big acts, touring bands and performers will look to the venue as a place to showcase their

friend they are with a personal ad in the Oregon Daily Emerald Classifieds.



