

Scuba: Advanced classes give dive master training

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course and a number of specialty courses after completing the advanced course. The dive master programs are preparation classes for becoming an instructor, and can often lead to employment in the tropics.

"The progressions are done in a very easy and appropriate manner," Phillips said.

Vearrier said students completing the program have gone to work in Hawaii, San Salvador, the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands.

He said training in the harsh conditions of the Northwest is an advantage.

"If you train in the Northwest you can dive anywhere you want," he said. "It's something to be proud of."

Phillips is planning to take his experience to the next level by becoming an instructor.

"It's something I've always kind of dreamt about, but I never pictured myself doing it," Phillips said. "The more I did it, the more I enjoyed it, so I continued in the program."

Students interested in scuba courses need to be in good health [and be able to] swim 200 yards and tread water for 10 minutes, Vearrier said.

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— Ron Vearrier
Scuba Instructor

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have to be athletic or good at any one skill to be able to do the sport," he said.

As far as safety is concerned, Vearrier said scuba diving is extremely safe because of the extensive training and technology available.

"Bowling is more dangerous than scuba diving," he said.

Scuba diving is appealing because it allows humans to adapt themselves to explore an inner world, Vearrier said.

"Now instead of just being stuck on land, we're opening up the rest of the world," he said. "Wherever there's water you can dive."

Tuition for the basic course is \$275 and includes books, materials, transportation, lodging and gear. Students also receive discounts for personal equipment from Eugene Skin Divers Supply.

Funding: Plans include building a stage

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construction costs," he said. "We have a really unique opportunity right now that we need to jump on. That's why things are moving rapidly."

The ASUO sees this as a worthwhile project because "it would draw students into the area," Scotten said. "It would really be a faceplate for the University and make it recognizable as the center of campus because in fact it is, geographically and traffic-wise, the center of campus."

Scotten does not see the courtyard, as it is now, as an effective

use of the area, due to the high volume of traffic and a lack of room for people to sit.

"As it is now, people are walking through the audience and in front of the stage," Scotten said. "It is not a great place nine to ten months out of the year [because of weather] to do any kind of event. It's just not a very well designed courtyard space, and it certainly is not one that facilitates any sort of large-scale event."

Current plans would enlarge the courtyard space, building a raised stage and diverting traffic around the amphitheater area.

Plans also show raised seating around the courtyard.

The project cannot be finalized until the Student Senate, the ASUO President and University President Dave Frohnmayer approve the use of Over-Realized funds for this project.

Scotten plans to present the proposal to the Student Senate next week and get approval from Frohnmayer in order to get plans under way spring term.

"I encourage students who want to be involved in the project or have concerns they want to voice to talk to me," Scotten said.

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