

Students still preparing for spring break getaways

Time is running out to plan for that perfect spring vacation retreat

By Kari Skoog
for the Emerald

In a few short weeks, after the stress of finals has ended, Brian Powers will be cruising down Interstate 5 with six of his closest friends. Opting for something other than a spring break vacation package, the sophomore sports marketing major and his friends quickly threw together a road trip to Baja, Mexico, with only three weeks left in the term.

"The packages just seem like more of a hassle to do, and they are really, really expensive," he said.

Powers is one of many students who are choosing customized, cheaper trips over the traditional travel agency deals to such exotic locales as Jamaica or Cabo San Lucas.

Limited by miniscule budgets and a lack of forethought, students are still planning varied

trips that won't eat up their budgets for spring term. With a bit of initiative and ingenuity, you can, too.

If you're traveling by car, mechanical and navigational concerns need to be addressed. Powers, for one, is going to do more pre-trip planning than he did last year to ensure a safe trip.

"I learned last time that you should make sure your car can handle the trip down there by checking the coolant, oil and tire pressure," Powers said. He also said he'll bring a lot of food and plenty of music.

While Powers has made his trip before, many students often don't know how to get where they want to go. It may sound obvious, but maps will probably help. Various maps can be found at bookstores and even on the Internet.

One leading resource is the American Automobile Association of Oregon and Idaho (484-0661), which offers maps and various guides to its members for all parts of the country. Yearly membership is \$53 per person.

Members of AAA also have access to TripTiks, which are maps that plot out your trips down to the mile, and Tour Books that list information on AAA-approved hotels. These resources contain information on mileage, local attractions and optional routes for road trips and can be accessed through the AAA Web page, www.aaa.com.

Other students are opting for something a little different than a road trip.

Amy Briggs, a sophomore education major, is going home after finals week. But she won't be alone.

With a group of friends, Briggs is taking a round-trip train home to Moraga, Calif., for about \$100. "We have a large group of people," she said. "It is easier this way and more fun."

For students interested in a trip by train, Amtrak (800-872-7245) offers a 10 percent student discount with valid student identification through May 1. A round-trip ticket to San Francisco can be bought for

\$120 or \$78 to Vancouver, British Columbia.

Some students prefer to get still farther away, however. For this, only an airplane will suffice. For cheap plane tickets on short notice, get on the Internet now or contact a travel agent to get the best remaining deal.

Many Web sites such as www.priceline.com and www.travelocity.com offer discount rates on airline tickets anywhere in the world. The rates fluctuate daily, and the earlier you get online, the better price you'll find.

Students can also visit Council Travel (344-2263), a travel agency located on the second floor of the EMU, for reservations and rate inquiries.

At www.priceline.com, students choose which price range they can afford, and the site will search its database for the request. Tickets should usually be purchased one to three weeks before the date of departure.

The prices will change each day, however, and students

Helpful travel websites

FOR PLANE:

- www.priceline.com
- www.cheaptickets.com
- www.travelocity.com
- Alaska Airlines: www.alaska-air.com
- American Airlines: www.americanair.com

FOR CAR:

- AAA Oregon/Idaho: www.aaa.com

FOR TRAIN:

- Amtrak: www.amtrak.com

should check the individual airline web pages such as www.americanair.com or www.alaska-air.com or call the reservation lines listed in the phone book for more accurate rates.

If after trying the Internet, travel agencies and the train station you still can't find that cheap spring break trip you were hoping for, resting at home may be your best bet.

Some students are going to perfect their resumes and interview for internships over the break.

New student group aims to promote Indian culture at festival

The event will include authentic foods, dancing and art exhibits

By Erin Snelgrove
Oregon Daily Emerald

Ready and willing to entertain the Eugene community, the newly formed India Student Organization will be offering its first cultural forum Saturday.

The event, called UTSAV '99 after an Indian word meaning celebration, is complete with art exhibitions, Indian cuisine and folk dance performances.

Sudeshna Sen, the president of the ISO, said the event was made possible because of a dramatic increase in the University's Indian population. This year approxi-

mately 40 Indian students attend the University, while in the past only a handful of the University's population originated from India.

"With the additional people and our mutual desire to promote our culture, we joined to form the ISO," Sen said.

If UTSAV '99 goes well, the ISO will work to be officially acknowledged by the ASUO student government. With the recognition, ISO will be eligible for additional financial support from the University next year.

"With the funding, we'll be able to offer bigger and better events in the future," Sen said. "And with India Night, we'll be able to show that ISO consists of committed and motivated individuals."

One of the primary reasons of pre-

senting UTSAV '99 is to teach others about Indian culture while providing educational entertainment.

"We want to make people aware of what India stands for," said Prajna Paramita, a member of ISO. "By having the celebration, we are hoping to share some of the rich traditions and customs of India with others."

A small segment of each of India's diverse regions will be represented at the festival. Besides modeling traditional clothing from each part of the country, a variety of Indian food will be offered, such as tandoori chicken, pulao (a rich rice dish) and pan (a type of bread). Both meat and vegetarian foods will be available.

For entertainment, ISO members will perform authentic Indian dances such as the Dandiya

Raas, a harvest performance that demonstrates thankfulness, and the Bharatnatyam, a fluid art form that features a steady rhythm, eye movement and pantomime.

Asha Mary John, a member of ISO, will demonstrate the Bharatnatyam at the festival.

"It's a lot like ballet," John said. "With the combination of upper-body movement and gestures, the dance tells a story."

John was taught the Bharatnatyam by professional trainers in India. Because she is accustomed to performing before an audience, John said she is looking forward to dancing at the ISO celebration.

"It's an important part of the Indian culture to entertain, we love doing that," John said. "In schools from my country, we always had

a culture day where we'd sing and dance before others. With the celebration being hosted by ISO, this culture-day tradition is being continued."

John said people who attend the event may be surprised by what they see.

"India is often thought of as one big country with a lot of smaller countries within it," John said. "The languages, customs and food from each region are very unique. Generally speaking, the diversity of this magnitude is rarely seen from only one country."

UTSAV '99 will be held in the EMU Fir Room from 4 to 7 p.m. and tickets may be purchased at the EMU Ticket Office. Students pay \$7 for admission; the general public pays \$8.

Logging

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passed in 1987 that focuses on improving waterway conditions.

Kitzhaber stressed the role the timber industry must play in this plan to protect not only waterways but also Oregon coho and steelhead salmon, which are threatened by poisonous runoff into streams.

"As a result of your close connection with the land, you are in a position to lead by example," he

said.

Kitzhaber stressed that industry alone doesn't account for the polluted waterways. Other major contributors are communities and citizens, he said.

"Improving Oregon's waterways is a shared responsibility, and nothing is going to happen unless people step up and do their part," he said.

Kitzhaber also said he wants to see environmental reform in the

areas of small stream protection, better management of building laws to prevent landslides and the effects of cumulative pollution.

Legislation should focus on increasing equity among large and small industries in Oregon, according to Kitzhaber.

"I would support an approach to land that would affect the decisions of not only upscale landowners but also downscale landowners, as well," he said.

Kitzhaber's statement met applause from the audience because the timber industry has been beleaguered by increasing environmental regulation that has reduced its profits.

The governor addressed this issue in his speech, but was dubious about possible plans to give the industry extra benefits to revive its marketability.

"I'll look into the issue of logging exemption on environmental

regulation, but I would have to ask myself, 'Who else is receiving exemption?'" he said.

But Kitzhaber said he would support any plan that would help "get the timber industry back on its feet."

Another issue acknowledged by Kitzhaber was forest regulation. He stressed the importance of the industry in this area because of its intimate knowledge of Oregon's forests.


The 1999 Women's Film Festival

<p>Friday, Feb. 26 GIRLS LIKE US Unbound The Righteous Babes Rosebud</p>	<p>Saturday, Feb. 27 DIALOGUES with MADWOMEN Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter And Still I Rise Daughters of Dykes</p>	<p>100 Willamette Hall U of O Campus 7:30 - 11:30 pm</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">FREE!</p>	<p>Special Thanks to: Department of English Women's Studies Department University Housing PARTY Fund Student Life Office of Multicultural Affairs CSWS U of O Bookstore</p>
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