

Outdoor Program set to train trip initiators

■ A new workshop will train students who wish to lead outdoor excursions

By Simone Ripke
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Outdoor program is giving students the opportunity to lead groups on the outdoor adventure of their dreams.

On Thursday, Oct. 14 and Saturday, Oct. 16 the Outdoor Program will offer a Trip Initiator's Clinic, which will cover the basics of initiating outdoor adventures. The event is scheduled to take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Outdoor Program Resource Room.

Students will have the opportunity to learn everything from how to get van driver certification to the philosophy behind the program and liability issues, said Darcy Davis, environmental coordinator for the Outdoor Program and a senior environmental studies major.

The clinic is divided into two sessions. On Thursday, interested students will learn the "all-around" skills necessary to initiate a trip. On Saturday, white water rafting trips and a safety clinic are scheduled.

The OP, which is located in the basement of the EMU in room 37, enables students to access equipment and gain training and trip experience for a wide range of

outdoor activities. The purpose of the upcoming Trip Initiator's Clinic is to "help students know the resources," Davis said.

The OP allows students to borrow a variety of outdoor items for their adventures at no cost. Coordinators hope to familiarize students with the available tools and techniques. One resource of the center, is the Allard and Casey Memorial Safety Library, created in honor of Frank Allard and Michael Casey, University students who died while climbing in Oregon's central Cascades in 1995. Some of the available tools include: avalanche probes, snow shovels, avalanche beacons, radios and cellular phones, but, of course, there is a fee for air time.

The program has been dedicated to providing outdoor adventures at low costs to the Eugene community for more than 30 years. An extensive selection of maps and guide books, vehicles, rafts, tents and sleeping bags are just some of the many resources students can take advantage of through the OP.

Other upcoming events this term include a Fall Equipment Swap, a multimedia slide show about Utah's canyon country and a Sea Kayaking and Safety Clinic, to name only a few.

The OP can be reached at 346-4365 for more information.

Abu-Jamal fails in Supreme Court appeal

By Bill Bergstrom
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Mumia Abu-Jamal, the former Black Panther and radio journalist sentenced to death for killing a police officer, lost a Supreme Court appeal Monday.

Without commenting, the court refused to review Abu-Jamal's arguments that he was denied a fair trial in the 1981 killing of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner.

Abu-Jamal's jailhouse writings about the justice system has attracted worldwide attention. Thousands of supporters have staged demonstrations in Philadelphia to demand a new trial.

"While I am distressed at the thought that 18 years have passed since that night I will never forget, I am pleased that yet another hurdle has been cleared on the path toward justice," Maureen Faulkner, widow of the slain officer, said in a statement.

Gov. Tom Ridge will sign a new execution warrant for Abu-Jamal within 30 days, following state policy in capital cases, spokesman Tim Reeves said.

Abu-Jamal is not likely to be ex-

ecuted soon. He still can challenge his state court conviction in federal courts, a process that someday could lead back to the Supreme Court.

Abu-Jamal's attorney, Leonard Weinglass, said he would appeal to U.S. District Court.

"It is not a setback, but it is a missed opportunity," Weinglass said. "The court could have ended the case quickly. Now we will have to go the long route."

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court upheld Abu-Jamal's conviction and death sentence, saying it found no merit in various arguments his lawyers raised.

Abu-Jamal was convicted of shooting Faulkner to death after the police officer stopped Abu-Jamal's brother for driving the wrong way down a city street. Abu-Jamal, found wounded at the scene, maintained his innocence and contended he was framed.

The appeal raised three legal arguments, none focusing on Abu-Jamal's claim of innocence. But his lawyers did tell the justices about "an array of evidence powerfully supporting his longstanding insistence that he is victim of a monumental injustice."

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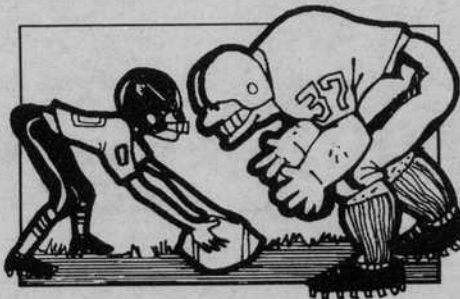
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