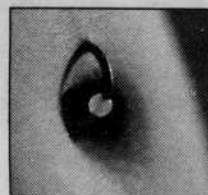


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PULSE *Fly away*

On Thursday
Hole-y moley!
Read about the
2nd Annual Body
Modification
celebration!



Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Poignant memories deserve scrapbook

I hosted a reunion of sorts several weeks ago. I spent last summer going to school in Italy, and a handful of my fellow students got together at my house to reminisce about the rich food, cheap wine and wretched excess of hairy men in Speedos. We filled my house with the smells and sounds and sights of Italy — minus the Speedos, thanks — evoking overwhelming memories of my experience. The food was mouthwatering and the wine intoxicating, but the best part of the night was the photographs.

Photos are a powerful visual reminder.

My memory tends to be more early-'80s Ronald Reagan than elephant and seeing my friends' snapshots brought back memories of experiences that had all but disappeared from my thoughts. I could smell the potent aroma of brewing espresso, taste the addictive flavor

of hazelnut gelato and hear the sound of foreign voices bouncing off ancient walls.

I was able to do this because my friends, being more organized than I, had filed away their photos in the neat plastic sleeves of their photo albums. My pictures were not so lucky. They have sat for months in a pile in a cardboard shoebox in my living room. Like many of my projects, this one was ambitious and unfinished.

I made a promise to myself during the trip that dealing with my photographs would be my first priority when I returned home. There was plenty to work with. I'm a pack rat. I kept every brochure, map and train or museum ticket that touched my hands. I'm also a notorious photo whore. If I decide to take a picture of something, it is never just one. It has to be two or five or 10. Nearly a quarter of the weight in my luggage was film and paper. Unfortunately, the significance of it all is slowly seeping from my brain.

I don't mean to advocate prompt, analytical organizational skills. Instead, I would encourage that pictures and paper scraps be dealt with before all memories of their importance goes the way of Michael Jackson's dignity: away completely.

My experiences in Italy had life-changing effects on me. I would be forever regretful if I were to forget it. My photo albums will help ensure that never happens.

At this point, I am at least partly on my way to finishing my project. My photos are in order and I have notes in my journal that identify the scenes I can't recall. My sister gave me the supplies to get started: a leather-bound photo album, gold photo corners and matching gold pens.

My own intentions were less elaborate. The last scrap book I put together was made from a children's book, from which I cut the pages and then refilled it with cut-down paper grocery bags. It had a charming, ratty effect, but my first Eu-

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Nika Carlson
D.I.Y. living

Spring break on the fly

A spontaneous spring break excursion can bring unexpected excitement when travelers are prepared

Helen Schumacher
Pulse Reporter

College students aren't necessarily known for their advanced planning, which means the decision to get out of Eugene for spring break may sometimes be a last-minute one. While short notice does eliminate some travel options, a spur of the moment journey can be even more fun than a thoroughly planned trip.

All of political science major Katie Darnell's spring break excursions to date have been such.

"The last two spring breaks I went on last-minute trips," Darnell said. "Last year I took a bus to Colorado to pick up a car and then my friends and I drove it through Utah and California and back into Oregon, camping along the way. I knew about a week beforehand that I was going to go. My other plans ended up not happening, so I had to come up with something else."

Darnell said that being spontaneous made her trips memorable and recommends other travelers do the same.

"Keep your schedule open — you're not going to be able to do everything you want," Darnell said. "Enjoy the unplanned things, bring lots of music to listen to and don't make showering a priority."

Last year, senior Steve Saldana and his roommates rented a car and took an impromptu trip to the Los Angeles area.

Saldana said the biggest prob-

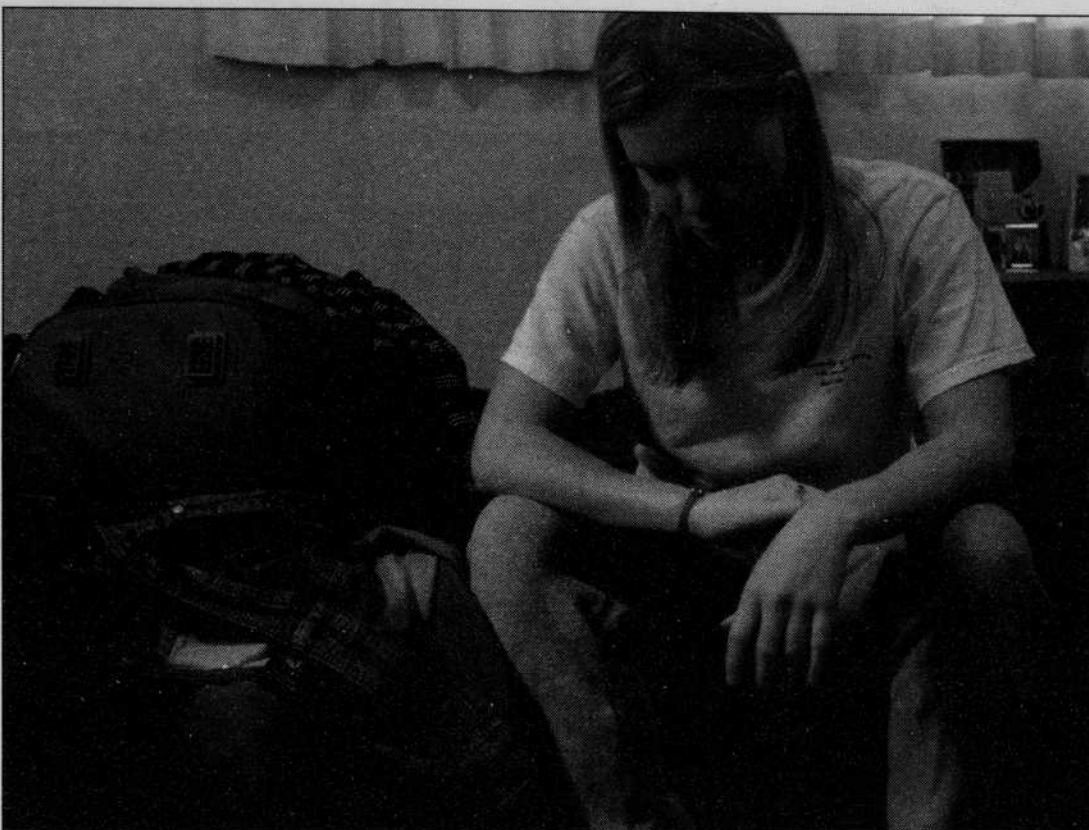


Photo illustration Danielle Hickey

Time constraints force many students to make last-minute spring break plans, which can be both rewarding and stressful.

lem on his trip was learning how to budget his money to be able to pay for gas.

"Make sure you have enough money to get there and back," Saldana recommended. "Also make sure you get along with the people you're going with."

Education major Martha Mosqueda had similar advice. She said the people she vacationed with were what made the trip fun and memorable.

"Freshman year, I took a last-minute trip over the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend up to Vancouver, B.C.," Mosqueda

said. "Going with laid-back people, who weren't uptight about having everything planned, and people that I knew I could get along with really made things fun and less stressful."

Since impulsive trips don't usually involve making reservations at a hotel ahead of time, both Mosqueda and Darnell said it is a good idea to bring camping gear in case all rooms are booked in the area.

"Bring camping equipment because you don't want to get stuck and have to sleep in your car," Mosqueda said. "There's

usually a campground you can stay at if nothing else."

A last-minute vacation doesn't leave much time for the traveler to investigate the area beforehand, a good resource can be local residents.

"If you're not familiar with the area, it is hard to know where the good bars and restaurants are. On one trip, we ended up talking to this woman at a clothing store who recommended this really cool bar," Darnell said. "I was glad we took the time to talk to her."

Turn to **Break**, page 8

Flight training reaches new heights

Local flight schools offer training to those interested in piloting for a career or hobby

Ryan Bornheimer
Senior Pulse Reporter

As spring break approaches, many students may be preparing to embark on a cross-country road trip or wing off to tropical spots to catch up on their tans. But while anyone can wander onto the sands of Palm Springs, how many students can say they landed their own Cessna 152 right on the beach? This time next year, maybe you could.

This scenario may be a bit unrealistic, but that doesn't mean it's not possible. Some may be surprised to find that Eugene and the surrounding area is an ideal spot for adventurers seeking both small- and large-aircraft flight training. Whether it's an interest in aviation as a career or just a hobby, there are no shortage of schools ready to get the uninitiated pilot airborne.

It may be wise for the novice to think small — literally. For flight

training as recreation, Randy Vyff may be the man to see. This independent instructor has been flying ultralight planes for 23 years and offers lessons for seven. He said learning to fly can be an overwhelming experience, giving people a chance to see the diverse Oregon landscape from a truly unique perspective.

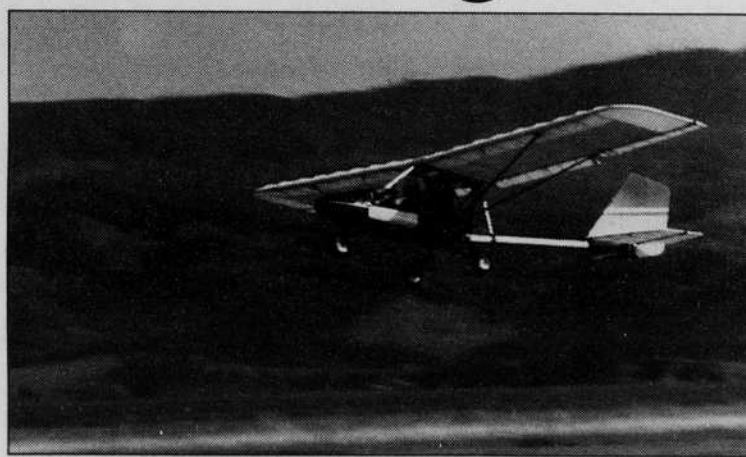
"It's just incredible to fly over the snow-capped mountains, then venture over to the coast, and down into the valleys," Vyff said. "Most students are so excited, they just blubber on about the experience."

He went on to state that ultralight excursions epitomize the best aspects of air travel.

"It's just the cheapest, funnest way to fly," Vyff said.

Ultralight training may also be more cost effective than other options. Vyff said instruction can be completed for between \$600 and \$700 compared to the \$5000 often invested in training for larger aircraft. His lessons run \$60 an hour, including instruction, use of the ultralight plane and fuel.

Once the world of the ultralight



Courtesy

Training in an ultralight can be much cheaper than certification in a larger aircraft.

is conquered, a visit to About Time Aviation may be the next logical step. This organization offers everything from instructions to flight simulator sessions and aircraft rentals. Students can complete these sessions as well as a number of other comprehensive courses in acquisition of a private, commercial, instrument and airline transport pilot certificate.

About Time Aviation instructor Paul Preziose said there's no way to convince someone to want to learn how to fly.

"You really have to have the desire to try it," Preziose said. "And how far you go with it boils down to how much initiative you have."

About Time also offers a discovery flight session for people unsure Turn to **Flight**, page 7