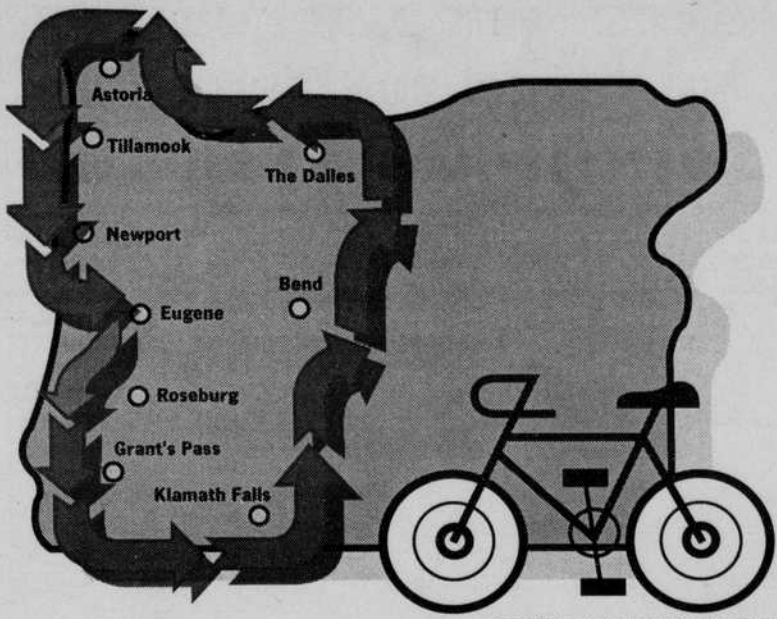




BRET FURTWANGLER | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Jason Elmendorf created Ride4America to help promote Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry. The program tours Oregon by bicycle visiting cities and talking to citizens.

Vote: Cyclists make extended tour stops at smaller colleges

Continued from page 1

college campuses.

Volunteers said LCC was a good departure point because of its proximity to the freeway and its role in the lives of young people.

"LCC is a logical starting off point philosophically and geographically," volunteer Randy Brous said.

The location did pose one problem early on, as confused bikers headed straight down a dead-end street rather than taking a left turn that would have eventually put them south bound on Interstate 5. The riders quickly realized the mistake and were on the right track in a matter of minutes.

The group will be concentrating its efforts at community colleges rather than major universities because the smaller,

community-oriented atmosphere provides a better opportunity to talk to students one-on-one, Elmendorf said.

"In the TV age people just don't talk about issues anymore," Elmendorf said. "If you talk to someone directly it's much more powerful than television."

READ MORE ONLINE

For more information, visit www.ride4america.org

Elmendorf said the group does plan on riding through Southern Oregon University and Oregon State University campuses but will reserve its extended stops for smaller schools.

"There's already an organization...on the U of O campus and other campuses that really support getting the vote out, and that doesn't exist in the (community colleges)," Elmendorf said.

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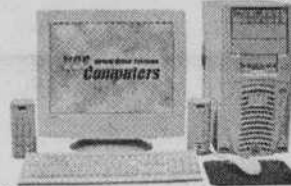
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