

Group which helps disabled individuals closes

by Janice Staehely
The Print Staff

I was bewitched by the beautiful Mt. Hood! How else could I explain my sudden yearning attraction to know what it feels like to ski down that pure white slope?

I was on a mission to learn something new! I was on Mt. Hood to determine if learning how to ski was an activity which I wanted to risk my life doing.

A friend of mine who volunteers with SOAR invited me to check out an adapted skiing class. SOAR means Shared Outdoor Adventure and Recreation, and is an organization with the purpose of creating exciting and challenging outdoor activities which are modified for individuals who have disabilities. In this case, each person with a disability had a volunteer who assisted the person while skiing.

I didn't know exactly how the skis I would be using would work if I should choose to ski. The only close-up view I had of the skiers was when they were heading up to the chair lift, and then once again when they ended skiing for the day. I mostly watched the skiers from the windows of the warm comfort of the lodge's bar.

However, the skis I would be using sort of resembled a go-cart with skis. I would be sitting in the cart with my legs out in front of me with a long pole in my hands to steer from side to side. My volunteer would be skiing in back of me helping to ski like this. However, the ski instructor was already thinking of adaptations as I heard myself say that I wanted to take skiing lessons next season.

Perhaps I totally lost my priorities of what is important in my life while I was watching people ski down the mountain from the lodge's bar. With good company, food, live music, and good entertainment outside the windows, who wouldn't want to join the action? It has been almost a year since my last visit to the mountain. By this time I would have thought that the skiing bug would have died within my, but it clearly hasn't! I am determined to experience what it feels like to ski down a glorious mountain!

Unfortunately, events happened to change the best laid plans. A year ago, I didn't know that I would be moving this December, and with my move I forgot to register for the skiing class. I may have lost my one chance to ski, because as of Feb. 28, SOAR closed its doors. In a future issue, see how this great service has served people in its 12 years, and why it may no longer be available.

Durham to be newest Oregon judge

by Nicole Turley
The Print Staff

On Jan. 4, Skip Durham, husband of YPOP instructor Linda Durham, was appointed by Governor Barbara Roberts to the Supreme Court of Oregon and finally met a long-time goal of his.

"I feel really proud of him because he's very disciplined, works very hard and he is being rewarded for his hard work," said Linda Durham.

Skip Durham described the application process for the position as a "long and complicated one which included a number of different parties."

First he had to fill out a 10-page dissertation about his qualifications, work experience and cases he has worked on.

Then a group of six people were interviewed for the position, and three were selected for final consideration. After a background check on the three applicants, they had to sit through one more interview and then Governor Roberts made the final decision.

Though Skip Durham found the process very stressful and time consuming, he said the

thoroughness of it was very important. "You don't want to make a mistake with this very important decision," he said.

He was notified of his appointment on Jan. 4 and sworn in on Jan. 28.

Skip Durham received his bachelors degree in political science from Whittier College in California and then attended law school at the University of Santa Clara. "He was the first person in his family to graduate from college," Linda said.

He has wanted to become a member of the court since his first job after college as a law clerk for the Supreme Court of Oregon, she said. "He loved it," and he made it a goal to become a judge for the Supreme Court of Oregon.

In 1974, Skip Durham and three other colleagues decided to begin a law firm together.

"The idea of just going out and starting your own law firm was considered difficult then," said Skip Durham, who said they all knew the difficulties they would face, by pursuing this "exceedingly challenging prospect," such as getting established and finding clients.

In the beginning it was not easy. "We went six months with no income," said Linda Durham.

However, all three members worked hard and the firm eventually became a success. "The focus of the firm was labor law," Linda said.

According to Skip Durham, many of the firm's clients had little money, were elderly, sick and injured. The firm won its fair share of cases and did not lose many.

"I also think treating our clients with respect lent a bit to the success of the firm," he said.

Skip Durham was also a volunteer lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union and, "he received an award from the Oregon Education Association for his work in the area of civil rights," said Linda Durham.

One of the main reasons Linda Durham feels her husband has been successful in his career is because he cares about his clients and loves his job.

"He really cares about the people whose problems he is trying to help. He loves what he does and works very hard at it."

As Skip Durham looks forward to beginning his term as a Supreme Court Justice, he has several goals in mind.

He will continue to show the same care and respect for the people he works for. His priorities are public safety and work-place safety.

"My goals right now are to become completely involved in the court and to be a credible member of the court," he said.

He said he takes his job very seriously and that "it's the only way one could take it."

When asked what he would tell law students pursuing their careers, he said, "I would urge them to recognize that the law is a place where they could accomplish a lot of good."

He added there was a great deal of personal satisfaction one can get from helping people with their legal problems.

He then stressed that students must make their education number one because "the opportunities won't present themselves with out it."

"Oregon is lucky to have someone with an excellent heart and mind on the Supreme Court of Oregon," said Linda Durham.

Seagal's new flick puts viewers 'On Deadly Ground'

by Jeff Kemp
The Print Co-Editor-In-Chief

If you haven't been to the movies in a while, you might be due for a trip "On Deadly Ground," the new movie starring and directed by Steven Seagal.

This suspense thriller tells the story of the aggressive drilling activities of Aegis Oil, an independent company under the leadership of its renegade president, Michael Jennings (Michael Caine). When Forrest Taft (Seagal), in his typical roughneck persona, learns of Aegis' environment-threatening behavior, he attempts to stop the company from drilling on native Alaskan (Inuit) land, but instead finds himself fighting for his own life against Jennings and his men.

Taft teams with Masu (Joan Chen), an Inuit activist, to defend himself and his homeland against the oil company, which culminates in an explosive battle of wits and muscle. Taft and Masu

know that they're "on deadly ground." But so are Aegis and Jennings, who will soon learn that oil and water don't mix, and that fire and ice can be a lethal combination.

Seagal makes his directing debut with blockbuster film company Warner Brothers. "On Deadly Ground," a taut action thriller also stars John C. McGinley as MacGruder, Jennings' operative. Irvin Brink, who plays Silook, the Native Chief and Masu's father, makes his motion picture debut as an actor.

Seagal has starred in five hit films and has become one of the world's most popular and bankable action stars in recent motion picture history. His last film, "Under Siege," was a number-one box office hit in the theaters, and jumped to the number-one position on the video rental charts upon its release on video.

Seagal now expands his skills as a director on a story which

appeals not only to his sense of adventure, but also our responsibility to our fellow humans and environment.

It's this appeal to nature which seems to allow this film to fly. In 1994, when preserving our environment has become an absolute necessity, "On Deadly

Ground" captures the audience's inherent need to do the right thing.

"On Deadly Ground" is rated 'R' and runs about two hours. With a good mixture of biceps and bombs, Seagal's first work is worth the price of admission.

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