

Excursion finds geological marvels

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Did you know that at one time the entire Portland area was nothing but a series of 90 small volcanoes, all dumping lava and hot cinders across our fair city? Did you know that between 17 and 12 million years ago a swarm of lava flows came pouring out of eastern Oregon and flowed down the Columbia river all the way to the ocean? And that in some places these flows were up to three miles thick? How about the fact that you can still find fossilized trees, up to 14 million years old, in these ancient lava flows?

Well, if you had traveled with geology instructor John Snively Nov. 1, you would have learned all of this and much, much more.

The vans left Sunday morning, and the first stop was not some far-away frozen mountaintop, but a spot overlooking I-205 outside of West Linn. Here, you can see two lava flows that originated in eastern Oregon and traveled down the Columbia River of long ago.

After this, we drove up the

Sandy River looking at ancient lava tubes still etched in the sides of overhanging cliffs.

The trip had many stops along the Gorge including the Crown Point area, Oneonta Gorge, the Bonneville Slide, Carson and Hood River, each place offering its own exciting and mysterious piece of trivia.

Teaching people to see what they're looking at is one of John Snively's favorite pastimes, and there is no such thing as a dull moment or a boring hillside on one of his field trips. The intricate history of the Columbia's geologic past can be both endless and fascinating.

The trip culminated on a picturesque viewpoint overlooking The Dalles where a discussion was held on the Bretz Floods. These floods, the largest ever recorded in geologic history, came roaring down the Columbia River around 15,000 years ago. The flood waters reached as much as 1,000 feet high (or deep) in places and traveled at 60 miles per hour on the average. Nothing gives a story like this more life than standing where these catastrophic waters once flowed far overhead.

Portland Krushed by DJ

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With so many mediocre musical acts floating around today, sometimes it can be tough to hear creative music at a good venue in the Portland area. Occasionally, however, a musical tour comes through with enough talent to blow the socks off of the Spice Girls and their Z100 entourage. One of these tours was **Motherfunk 2**, and one of these venues was the **Crystal Ballroom**.

On Friday, Nov. 13, Japanese hip-hop artist **DJ Krush** performed with four other funky jazz based instrumental groups, and the springy dance floor at the Ballroom was bouncing all night long!

Vinyl, a group out of San Francisco, opened the night with their unique brand of disco-funk, and got the crowd moving. **Vinyl** played everything from instrumental ska to straight-up jazz, and the Hammond organ added a nice touch to their varied musical style.

Next up was the musical highlight of the night, jazz saxophonist Karl Denson's **Tiny Universe**. Denson's group is a side project of the **Greyboy Allstars**, who are probably the greatest groove quintet ever to come out of San Diego. The **Allstars** were formed in 1993 by Denson, and since then have continued to move crowds around the country with their brand of loose, jazzy grooves. **Tiny Universe** is a more bluesy offshoot of this style.

The band itself was amazing; every member was in total control of their instrument, and during their 90 minute set, they only stopped twice! The transition from

tune to tune was smooth and the audience was in a dancing frenzy as the groove flowed on. Definitely a crowd-pleaser.

DJ Krush showed Portland how they do it in Japan. This show was his first concert appearance on American soil, and he left a good impression on the kids of the United States.

His albums on London's **MoWax** records, a label renowned for its jazzy, murky, beat-heavy music, have showcased his turntable artistry, but most people have yet to see him perform live. Well, his debut proved that he can mix it up in concert as well as in the studio. He weaved together endless tapestries of deep hip-hop beats, jazz, classical, jungle, and various other styles to form a collage of sound that washed over the listener.

With just two turntables, two hands and an endless array of records, **Krush** showed that yes, hip-hop is still an art. Many people today try to discredit rap artists claiming they lack musical talent and/or knowledge, and they have a point, to some extent.

Commercial rap today has become a show of money, power, sex, drugs, and fame, and most rappers utilize this to gain more wealth. But the legitimate artists like **DJ Krush** prove that you can play hip-hop and have your head on straight. His wizardry at using different musical backgrounds to provide the listener with a full spectrum of instrumental beats and tunes is unmistakable.

All in all, this was a tremendous group of musicians. Nearly every style of musical expression was played one way or another during the night, and positive vibes abounded.



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Geology enthusiasts stand beneath a gorgeous waterfall. The group toured the Columbia Gorge area investigating Oregon's geological history.

