

Get out of your 'hood and up to Mt. Hood

**Mt. Hood
SKIBOWL**

110" base

\$26 Full-day

**MT. HOOD
MEADOWS**

154" base

\$44 Full-day

169" base

\$38 Full-day



INTERNET PHOTO

This snowboarder is catching some phat air in a halfpipe.

JEFF HEILMAN

Staff Writer

As the winter season of 2002 proceeds, snow conditions are looking up at Mt. Hood.

Although lift-ticket prices at Mt. Hood Meadows have risen for day passes, the price for night passes has dropped. Snowboarding was a lot cheaper four years ago when the price was \$30-\$35 for a day pass. Currently the price is \$44. That gives you from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.; a pass from 12 p.m. until 4 p.m. is \$37. The night pass, from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m., has been lowered this year to a very reasonable \$20, opposed to \$30; and Saturday nights are Safeway club card nights. Visit any Safeway grocery store and acquire a Safeway club card and you can get Saturday nights half-off.

Snow conditions this year for Meadows are the best they have been in three years, with 138 inches of snow at the base and 154 inches on the upper elevations. A lot of fresh snow has been dumped and a lot more is expected. With this

in mind, the best time to start is when there is a lot of fresh, soft snow on the mountain.

Traveling north on the mountain you will find yourself at Timberline. As the elevation gets higher you might also find the snow getting deeper. That is because Timberline is the highest resort on the mountain. With a base of 169 inches and constant snowfall, T-line is going to be a very powdery place. For the past few days, 27 inches of fresh snow has been the average. Hence, soft, fluffy riding.

Traveling back down the mountain a little ways, you will find Mt. Hood Ski Bowl. Ski Bowl is known as America's largest night ski area. With a base of 110 inches and constant flurries of powder, Ski Bowl is also snow-saturated. Keep in mind that Ski Bowl is the lowest elevated resort on the mountain; so be careful for wet, hard and possibly icy snow conditions.

If you are wondering about getting up to the mountain this year, stop wondering and make it happen, because if you're not careful, this spectacular snow season just might pass you by.

Students learn about life in Death Valley

DAISY BAIN

A & E Editor

Students who are interested in biology and geology have a first-hand chance to study animals, plants, and rocks in Death Valley, a place where the temperature can reach between 90-100 degrees this time of year.

The CCC science department is giving a three-credit field course in Natural History of Southwestern Deserts (B165) during spring break (March 21-30). The cost of the trip is \$220 and includes travel expenses, lodging and most of the food.

Clackamas has been offering this course for about 25 years. John

Snively, Life/Physical Science instructor, and Jennifer Porter, biology instructor, will head this year's course.

The class will also include two or three guest speakers. Both instructors have chosen Death Valley because of what you can learn from a desert.

"Deserts are incredible places," said Porter. "There are no plants to cover up the rocks and no soil, so you get to see rocks that have been folded and rocks that have been stretched. What's great for biology is that Death Valley is such a harsh place that if anything can survive they have got to be incredibly adapted to that environment. You can see anything from coyotes, rodents, bighorn sheep, insects and plants," said Porter.

"It is really intense; it's 10 days of

learning from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Most students come back and say they have learned more in those 10 days than in their entire college career," he added. There is some fun involved too. Hikes include Golden Canyon, which is a two-hour hike (all downhill) and Marble Canyon, which has polished marble that is so smooth students use it like a slide.

Part of the course includes hunting for snakes, lizards and scorpions. If it's been a wet year, the wild flowers should be in bloom.

Each student will present topics, participate in activities, and compile journals of information while camping. A final exam is required for comple-

tion.

Students must be enrolled at Clackamas, be 18 or older and have a verbal teacher recommendation. Students will also have a small interview with either Porter or Snively. The deadline to sign up is still undetermined but will be coming up in 2-3 weeks. Credits earned will be applied to the spring term.

"We have students that go back year after year. At night we will be sitting around the campfire and students will pop by from ten years ago.

"It's great camaraderie. When you get done it's like family. We've had people find their husbands and wives. We've had it all," laughed Porter.

"Deserts are incredible places."

Jennifer Porter
Biology Instructor

Look out for alternative media sources

JESSE GURZYNSKI

Staff Writer

In Portland there are several media sources that cater to points of view that are largely or wholly disregarded by the mainstream media. I will briefly tell you here of three of them: the Portland Alliance newspaper, Portland Street Roots newspaper, and KBOO radio station.

The Alliance comes out monthly, serving as an outlet for viewpoints not found in the mainstream media. It was originally part of a larger organization, the purpose of which was to create an alternative information coalition. While the larger project dissolved, the newspaper remained and has

been published for 21 years now.

Operated by a board of directors made up of writers and activists, the Alliance likes to choose for board members people who are closely connected with the community.

"We're organized as a non-profit corporation, the Northwest Alliance for Alternative Media, the sole purpose of which is the publishing of the newspaper," said Alliance Editor Dave Mazza. "The Alliance serves a very important niche, that's why we've been around for 21 years."

Another alternative newspaper is Portland Street Roots, which gives the homeless a voice. About 95 percent of the writing in Street Roots is by homeless people, according to Dale Hughes, a member of the

newspaper's board of directors and a staff writer.

Street Roots was started three years ago as the Burnside Cadillac so that disenfranchised people could have their thoughts and feelings published. Street Roots also features the Rose City Resource, a listing of various services that are useful to poor and homeless people. This shows homeless people where they can turn for help, which is especially important for the newly homeless who are likely confused and lost. Hughes said that, "becoming homeless, that can happen instantaneously."

Street Roots' mission statement is the following: "We advocate for the homeless, passionately striving for justice, equality, and freedom. Through

a voice that can be heard, we raise social awareness, build community, and create unique career and income opportunities to help the homeless help themselves."

KBOO 90.7 FM is a locally owned and operated, listener-supported community radio station. Started in 1968, KBOO serves communities that would be otherwise underrepresented in radio broadcasts. It features many different musical styles, as well as progressive news programming. "There's something for almost everyone," said KBOO's Bill McKibben.

Unlike public broadcasting, KBOO is mostly locally produced programming and so is more directly related to the community. It is also more

democratically operated than public broadcasting: KBOO members vote for the members of the board of directors, and committee meetings are open to the public.

"I think if anyone turns on the five o'clock tube, they'll quickly figure out that there's a problem," said Mazza. "The news doesn't cover the real stories."

Mazza also spoke on the idea of objective journalism. "One of the sort of hallowed traditions in journalism is that journalists should be objective, and that newspapers like The Oregonian are objective. In reality, they're advocacy journalists just like we are; they're advocating the status quo. Really, all newspapers are advocacy journalists. We're honest about it, they're not."