

Combination hike/transit adventure ideal for entertaining out-of-town guests

On Saturday, January 12, at 9:00 a.m., 50 area residents began the 4Ts walk. The walk was named because it uses the Trails, the Tram, the Trolley, and the Trains of Portland.

Led by Southwest Trails kingpins Don Baack, Lee Beuhler, and Phyllis Towne the walk takes about three hours and is four miles for the walkers. Vertical lifts range about 400 feet.

With an assist from Arnold Panitch, a TriMet Ride-wise Volunteer,

we boarded the 9:03 a.m. inbound #56 bus at Sunset Boulevard and Capitol Highway, and it ran on time. Each of us had either his ticket, his monthly pass, or exact change cash ready for the driver (Fares are either \$1.75 for 2 zone adult or \$.85 for seniors).

We left the bus at Southwest 4th Avenue and Taylor Street downtown and immediately hopped on the Westbound Red Beaverton MAX train on Southwest Morrison Street.

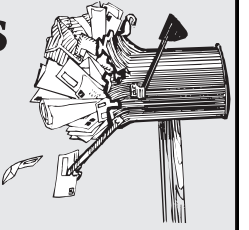
Exiting the MAX line at Washington Park, we were met by another group of walkers who had taken other trains or who had driven to Washington Park. The view up there is refreshing and amazed first timers to Washington Park.

Led by Baack and his 4Ts guides, we headed across U.S. 26 to the Marquam Trailhead. Up, up, up and away we tramped in rain, sleet, and an occasional snowflake, up the sometimes muddy trail on a gentle and safe climb. Pausing as we went, we arrived at Council Crest.

After a breather there, it was all downhill on either the Marquam Trail or a combination of city streets to the top of the OHSU Aerial Tram. At the bottom station, some boarded the Trolley back to our bus at Southwest Harrison and Naito Parkway, others moved about in the center city for food and shopping, while some walked a lot more along the Willamette River. Roundtrips for them ranged in the 8.5 mile range.

This is an excellent urban/forested adventure of hiking and public transits. It would be ideal for entertaining out-of-town guests looking

Letters to the Editor



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to get a real feel of how Portland lives. This walk attracted residents from all over the Portland Metro, city dwellers and suburbanites.

TriMet employees and OHSU personnel were very accommodating to us. Along the way, there are good places to relax and use restrooms. Props to Southwest Trails leadership for this wonderful invention. This could be a huge visitor attraction if properly advertised.

Arnold Panitch
Hillsdale



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Baby! Oh Baby!

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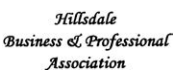
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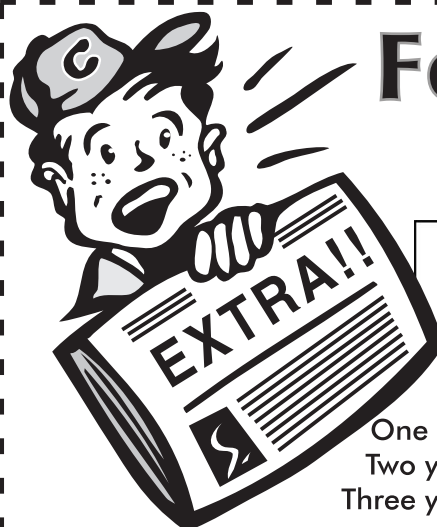
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