

Outdoor programs offer hope for spring break blahs

By Kim Hachiya

If you're looking forward to spring break, but not to 10 days with mom and dad, *The Family Feud* or *Gong Show* reruns, maybe the UNL Recreation Department's outdoor programs can offer some hope.

In its fourth year of planned outdoor programs, the Recreation Department is offering four different trips during spring break, according to Mark Ebel, outdoor recreation coordinator.

Ebel said Jim Fullerton, recreation adviser, will lead a desert backpacking trip through Arizona's Grand Canyon March 18-26.

Ebel said the hikers will carry five days of food, clothing, camping gear and sleeping bags down the seven miles of switch-back trails into the canyon.

They will spend two days at the base of the canyon on the Colorado River before ascending back to the rim.

The hikers will have to carry a diversity of clothing, Ebel said, because temperatures at the rim could be near freezing with snow, but the canyon floor will have temperatures near 80 degrees.

The \$75 trip is limited to 10 hikers. Cost will include transportation by university van, food, equipment and insurance.

Although no previous hiking experience is required, Ebel recommended that potential hikers be in good physical condition and the hikers must have a pair of well-broken-in hiking boots.

Applications for the desert backpacking trip will be accepted from Feb. 16 through March 1. A \$25 deposit is required.

The department also is sponsoring an off-shore sailing program in the Gulf of Mexico near Fort Myers, Fla., March 15-25.

The \$240 trip includes transportation, food, insurance and five days sailing on 42-foot sailboats.

Ebel said no prior sailing experience is required. People on the trip can learn how to sail the boats, skin dive, fish, swim or sunbathe in the 90-degree Gulf weather.

The trip is limited to 10 people and is nearly filled, according to Ebel, although



applications will be accepted until March 3. An \$80 deposit is required.

If sailing in the Gulf isn't exciting enough for your tastes, the department also is planning a white-water canoeing expedition on the Buffalo and Mulberry Rivers in Arkansas, March 18-25.

Ebel said some experience in negotiating river rapids is recommended, but not required for participants.

The \$60 trip cost covers transportation, food, and insurance. Canoes will be provided by the Recreation Department. Water-repellent clothing or rain gear is necessary, Ebel said. Temperatures in Arkansas will range from 30 degrees at night to near 70 during the day, according to Ebel.

Probably the most difficult of all the spring trips will be a ski-mountaineering trip March 14-26, Ebel said.

The goal of the trip is to make a winter ascent of Gannett Peak in Wyoming, Ebel said. At 13,804 feet, Gannett Peak is the tallest mountain in Wyoming.

Participants must have completed a basic rock climbing seminar offered by the Recreation Department, have ski touring experience and be in good physical condition, Ebel said.

The \$150 trip is jointly sponsored with Bivouac which is supplying food. The trip is limited to 10 people and is already filled, according to Ebel.

Ebel said the participants are all UNL students who were invited on the trip on the basis of prior experience.

Ebel said the climbers will ski into a base camp at 11,000 feet and ascend to the peak using specialized snow, glacier and ice climbing techniques.

He said they will descend almost immediately once reaching the summit because of the severe weather at that altitude. Ebel said the temperatures will be "well below zero with 50 mile-per-hour winds."

The climbers must supply their own polguard, down, and wool clothing, specialized mountaineering boots and gaiters, Ebel said. The recreation department will supply winter tents and other special mountaineering gear.

Making tracks to Omaha

By Jim Williams

It's three o'clock in the morning, and your reporter is sitting in a deserted, brightly-lit bar playing cheap boogie chords on the piano while a select group of friends sit around about half smashed on rum and Coca-cola. Not much of a way to spend a wild evening, you may think, but consider that we're moving from Omaha to Lincoln at just under a mile a minute. This is travel at its decadent, dissipated best. And it's cheap, too.

The San Francisco Zephyr runs between California and Chicago seven days a week, provided for your riding pleasure by Amtrak, the national rail passenger service. You can take the Omaha-Lincoln segment for about \$3.55 one way, \$6.50 round trip.

The equivalent bus trip costs \$3.05 one way, and the lower price requires you to endure over an hour on a bucking, smelly Seamy Cruiser with a continuous bellowing Diesel accompaniment. You can also fly between Nebraska's two largest cities, but the ticket will burn a \$20 bill and change, and the 20-minute trip gives hardly enough time to set up the backgammon board, let alone get into the frame of mind of a decadent aristocrat.

Of course, you have to endure some inconvenience for the sake of decayed elegance. For instance, the Zephyr leaves Omaha for Lincoln at the unfashionable hour of 3 a.m. Going the other way is even worse.

And if you simply must arrive in Chicago for that important meeting exactly on time, you'd better look into less exotic transportation. Amtrak trains are often on time, but almost as often they're not—they can be late by hours or even days.

But if you keep your train trip short, and

look at it as an excursion rather than transit, you'll find things to enjoy. Amtrak is run as a sideline by Uncle Sam, and it shows.

Just getting from car to car can be an adventure. The unused cars aren't heated, so you run through them, and the vestibules between cars often contain knee-deep snowdrifts picked up in the Rockies. The doors between cars are supposed to be opened by air pressure, but sometimes they freeze up. Straddling two railroad cars while wrestling with an obstinate door is one of life's rare pleasures.

It's not a bad scenario for a high-roller evening. Get to Omaha somehow, inhale some prime rib at the Gas Lamp, hit the more elegant bars, grab a cab to the station and leave at three. After an hour and ten minutes of sitting in the lounge car acting like William Powell (the bar's closed at that hour so you're on your own) or napping in a darkened coach with all the other sleepers or sitting in the dome car watching the world go by, you're back home again, ready to face the new day with indigestion and a terrible hangover.

Amtrak's trains are all reserved, so you must call their toll-free number, (112) 800 421-8320 to let them know you're coming. It's a travel experience you can enjoy without a huge pile of money—if you can stay up that late.

Red Cross is counting on you.

A Public Service of This Newspaper
& The Advertising Council



QUICKOLOR
COMPLETE
ONE-STOP
PHOTOFINISHING
27TH & "O" STREETS

SAME DAY SERVICE (M-F)
on Kodacolor II
& Fujicolor II
color print film!
C-41 chemical process

NEW
Let our
NEW AUTOMATIC
DRIVE-UP TELLER
do all the work!

Your color print film
is processed right in our
MAIN STORE!

Friendly, personal
service to meet all your
photofinishing needs!

Plenty of free, easy
parking at the rear!

Handy night film deposit!

SATELLITE LOCATION!
in Briarhurst Center
48TH & HWY. 2!

We use quality Kodak
paper & chemicals!

Kodak paper.
For a good look at
the times of your life.

QUICKOLOR PHOTO LAB
27th & "O"
48th & Hwy. 2
Hours: 7:30-5:30 M-F,
9:00-5:00 Sat.
Phone: 474-2662



**AL HILL
AMTRAK REPRESENTATIVE**

For Spring Break specials, ski trips,
USA Rail Passes, or just weekend
trips, go AMTRAK.

For reservations of information call
471-1171 472-8255

Amtrak