

Novice sportsmen rough it on wilderness trips

By George Wright

You don't have to be a rugged outdoorsman to backpack in the Wyoming wilderness or to canoe the Niobrara, according to the director of the UN-L department of recreation.

Dan Steller said novices and beginners make up about 75 percent of climbing, canoeing, rafting and backpacking trips sponsored by UN-L.

The novice, a person who has had no outdoor camping experience, and the beginner, someone with limited skills in outdoor situations, are briefed before summer trips by the recreation staff, he said.

Some outings require pre-trip meetings which deal with outdoor cooking, packing and equipment usage.

This summer's program includes a basic rock climbing seminar which begins June 16 and 17 in Lincoln. Following a lecture climbers will scale an East Campus practice wall. On June 23, 24 and 25 the seminar continues at Palisades State Park in South Dakota. The cost of the seminar is \$30.

A western climbing tour, including three days in the Black Hills of South Dakota, two days climbing Devils Tower in Wyoming and four days in the Grand Tetons National Park will cost \$175.

A Niobrara canoe trip, costing \$30, is planned for the weekend of July 7.

River-rafting on the Main Salmon River in Idaho, Aug. 12 to the 22, and backpacking in Targhee National Forest, Wyoming, Aug. 18 to the 27, wrap up the 1978 summer program.

Steller said the transportation costs

and the number of available staff limit the size of the group from eight to ten students and two staff members. A 15-passenger van is used on the trip, he said.

Applicants are screened for health and endurance reasons. Last summer on a back-packing trip a member of the group was exhausted and one of the staff returned with her to the base while the group continued on, Steller explained.

"A 65 to 75 pound back-pack is carried by each member of the group on backpacking trips", Steller said, "and we try to explain the difficulties of the trip."

Two staff members are required for each outing for safety reasons, he said. If a student or one of the staff is involved in an accident the group can continue.

On last year's Rocky Mountain trip a girl cut her knee. Steller said she had to be carried for a day and a half by one of the staff.

Those interested in the summer trips can contact Steller or Mark Ebel, the outdoor recreation coordinator, at 1740 Vine Street.

The recreation department also offers rental equipment for students who wish to plan their own outdoor excursions.

The recreation department bought five canoes this summer bringing the number of rental canoes to 21.

Tents, backpacks, sleeping bags, Coleman stoves and coolers and fishing gear are also available at daily, weekend or weekly rates.

Sports equipment including basketballs, softballs, footballs, frisbees, and tennis racquets are available at no cost.

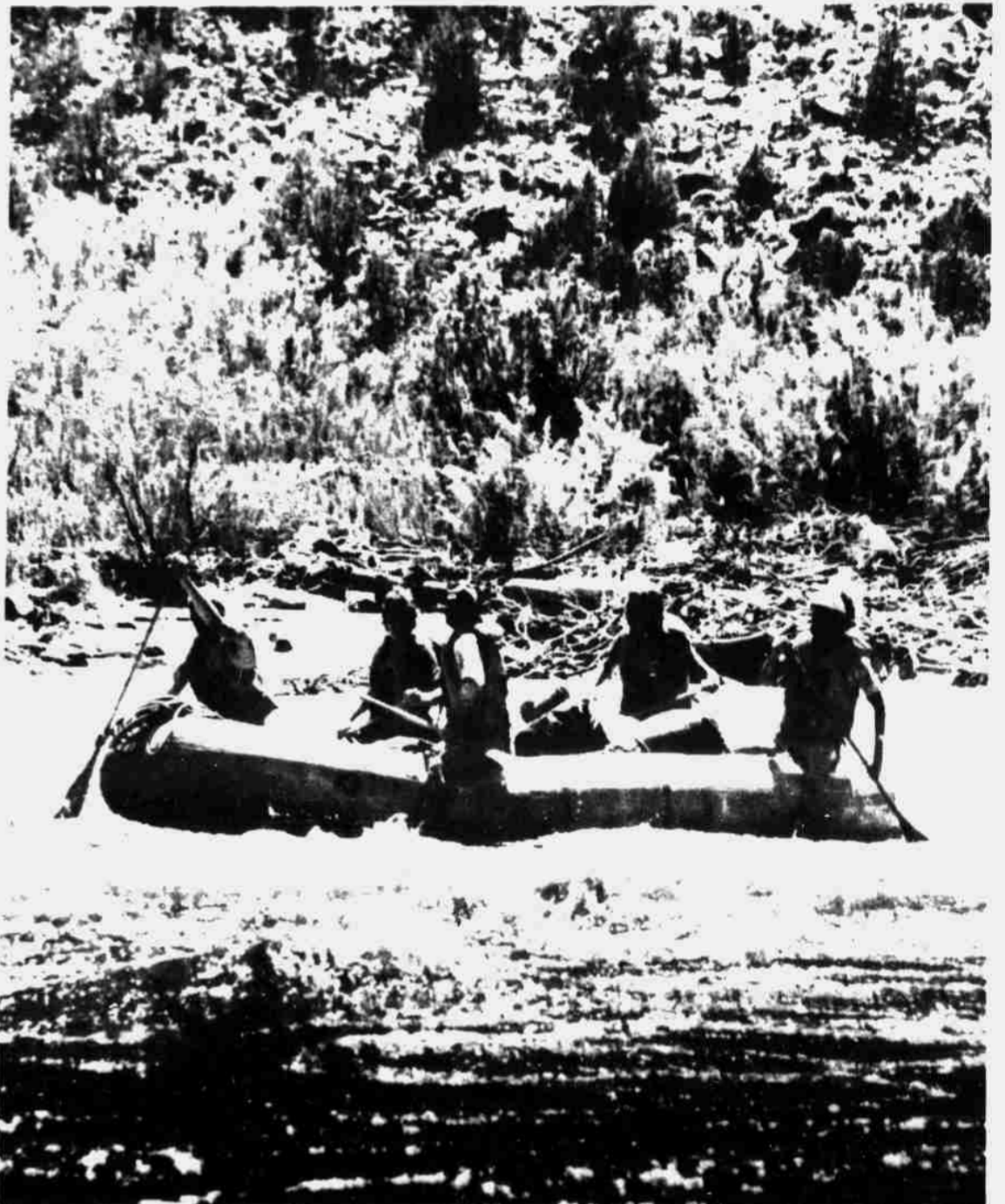


Photo by Mark Ebel

UN-L students Bill Freimugh, Chip Treen, Rich Freimugh, Jim Curtis and Colorado river guide Tory O'Laughlin barrel downstream on the Dolores River during a 50 mile trip. The May trip was sponsored by the UN-L recreation department in co-operation with the university of Colorado.

State Park permits are available at UN-L recreation department

Motor vehicle entry permits for Nebraska State Parks are sold by the recreation department at 1740 Vine. Permits cost: Nebraska resident annual, \$7.50; resident daily, \$1.50; non-resident annual, \$12.00; non-resident daily, \$2.00.

Hunting and fishing licenses are also sold at the recreation department. The department does not charge an issuing fee.

Maps of local areas and information on state camping areas and regulations are also available at the recreation department.

Observatory open for star gazing, Venus, Saturn now visible

Hyde Memorial Observatory at Holmes Park is open each Saturday night this month from sundown until 10:30 p.m.

Visitors can view through the telescopes such sites as Venus, with its white clouds that reflect a tremendous amount of sunlight making Venus the brightest "star" in the night sky.

June is the last month this year that

Saturn will be visible in the evening sky as it will soon vanish into the sun's glare.

Globular star clusters, double and triple stars and a planetary nebula can also be seen from the observatory. The Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department sponsors the program and also offers slide presentations.

There is no admission charge

grow yourself a brand new wardrobe!
1235 Q St.

BIVOUAC
anywhere on earth clothes

brown bag lectures

every thursday noon, in the Union Main Lounge. Bring a sack lunch June 15th and hear Prof. Bert Evans speak on "Looking At Corporate America Through the Farmer's Eyes."